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Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report
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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Islamic Affairs

ICO Head Views ICPD, Bosnia, Afghanistan *[TEHRAN TIMES 29 Aug]* 1
Iran's Velayati Arrives in Islamabad for ICO Meeting *[Tehran Radio]* 1
Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 30 Aug 1
Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 30 Aug 4

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat To Visit Jordan, Meet With King Husayn *[AL-DUSTUR 7 Sep]* 5
'Arafat: Israelis Not Fulfilling Peace Agreement *[Munich FOCUS 5 Sep]* 5
PLO's 'Abbas on Jordan Ties, PNC Session *[London AL-HAYAH 3 Sep]* 6
Sha'th Accuses Israel of Delays in Negotiations
[Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU 6 Sep] 7
'Urayqat Reacts to Rabin Statements on Elections *[Jericho VOP]* 9
Meets Consuls at Orient House *[Jerusalem Radio]* 10
Cabinet Meets, Discusses Jerusalem, Education *[Jericho VOP]* 10
Approves Budget, To Protest Settlements *[Jerusalem Radio]* 10
PNA's Quray' on Donor Aid, Budget Deficit *[Cairo International]* 10
'Arafat Briefs World Bank Delegation on Economics *[Jericho VOP]* 11
Mahmud 'Abbas Welcomes Morocco Opening of Office *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 12
Al-Qidrah, Sha'th Convey 'Arafat Message to Bhutto *[Jericho VOP]* 12
'Arafat Receives Vatican Envoy in Gaza *[Jericho VOP]* 12
PBC Head Signs Media Agreements in U.S., France *[Jericho VOP]* 12
Police Arrest, Interrogate Islamic Jihad Members 12
Police Chief Cited *[Jericho VOP]* 12
Islamic Jihad Demands Release *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 12
'Ashrawi Comments *[London MBC TV]* 13
Police Detain 5 DFLP Members for IDF Shootings *[Jerusalem Radio]* 13
Internal Rivalry Among Palestinians Viewed *[MA'ARIV 2 Sep]* 13
Official Denies 'Conflict' Among Security Forces *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 3 Sep]* 15
Abu-Mazin To Return to Self-Rule Areas 'Temporarily'
[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 6 Sep] 15
Partial Commercial Strike Staged in West Bank *[Jerusalem Radio]* 15
AL-NAHAR Not To Adopt 'Pro-Jordanian' Stands *[Jerusalem Radio]* 16
'Arafat Takes Away Officials' Car Privileges *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 6 Sep]* 16

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Presidency Statement on Dialogue, Madani Letters *[Algiers Radio]* 17
More on Madani Letters *[Algiers Radio]* 19
Political Leaders Comment on Dialogue Progress *[Algiers Radio]* 19
FFS Official Explains Boycott of Dialogue *[Algiers Radio]* 20
Presidency Responds to RCD Statement on Meeting *[Algiers TV]* 21
RCD Criticizes Presidency's Statement *[Algiers TV]* 21

Egypt

Mubarak, Gore Hold News Conference After Talks *[MENA]* 21
Mubarak Meets With Pakistani Prime Minister *[Cairo Radio]* 24
Ukraine's Kuras Meets Mubarak, Comments on Nuclear Arms *[MENA]* 24
Azerbaijani President Calls On Mubarak *[MENA]* 24
Mubarak Receives Japanese Foreign Minister *[MENA]* 24
Yemeni Foreign Minister Comments After Meeting Mubarak *[MENA]* 24
Civil Aviation Agreement Signed With Palestinians *[MENA]* 25
Israel's Nuclear Policy, Calls To End Boycott Assailed *[AL-AHRAM 3 Sep]* 25
Contacts With Iraq, Prospects for Reconciliation Viewed *[AL-SHA'B 2 Sep]* 25
Muslim Brotherhood Spokesman Sees Attack on Religions *[Rome LA REPUBBLICA 7 Sep]* 26
Minister: Extremists Penetrate Education Establishment *[AL-WAFD 2 Sep]* 27

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Delivers Speech on Revolution Anniversary *[Tripoli TV]* 27
Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses 'Popular Commands' *[Tripoli Radio]* 34
Cuban Envoy Praises Ties, Condemns U.S. 'Imperialism' *[Tripoli Radio]* 38

Morocco

Algeria Asked To Allow Transport of Trapped Citizens *[Rabat Radio]* 39
'Rift' With Algeria Not To Affect Gas Pipeline *[MAP]* 39
King Hassan Receives Tunisian, Jordanian Emissaries *[Rabat Radio]* 39
France Arrests Members of 'Fundamentalist' Group 39
Other Arab States May Follow Move on Israeli Ties *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 2 Sep]* 39

Sudan

Minister Claims Hala'ib Attack Part of Western Plot *[Omdurman Radio]* 40
Vice President, British MP's Discuss Federalism *[Omdurman Radio]* 40
Thousands Demonstrate Against 'Blasphemous' ICPD *[Nairobi KNA]* 40
State, Governorate Appointments Announced *[Omdurman Radio]* 40

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Jordanian Diplomat Expects Normal Ties 'Very Soon' *[Amman TV]* 41
Meets Foreign Ministry Official *[AL-SIYASAH 4 Sep]* 41
Paper Urges King Husayn To Change Iraq Policy *[AL-QABAS 31 Aug]* 41
Paper Rejects Egyptian Mediation With Iraq *[AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM 1 Sep]* 42

Oman

Iranian Foreign Minister Holds Meetings, Departs 42
Received by Sultan Qabus *[Tehran Radio]* 42
Meets With Omani Counterpart *[IRNA]* 43
Holds News Conference *[Muscat Radio]* 43
More on Comments on Iraqi Embargo *[AFP]* 44
Official Receives Message From Iraqi Finance Minister *[INA]* 44
Paper Gives Names of Arrested Islamic Movement Members *[London AL-HAYAH 5 Sep]* 44

Qatar

Amir Receives Yemeni Official al-Zindani *[Sanaa Radio]* 45

Saudi Arabia

Defense Minister Views Ulema Decision on Conference *[Riyadh Radio]* 46

Yemen

'Fierce Clashes' Reported in Abyan *[Kuwait Radio]* 46
YSP Forms New Political Bureau; New Members Listed *[AL-RA'Y 6 Sep]* 46

IRAQ

Turkish Jets Reportedly Raid PUK Centers *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 47
PUK Delegation Returns From Iran Visit *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 47
U.S. Air 'Surveillance' Activity Protested to UN *[Baghdad Radio]* 47
Yemeni Parliamentary Delegation Visits Baghdad 47
Delegation Arrives *[INA]* 47
Cooperation Program Signed *[INA]* 47
Yemeni Ba'th Party Delegation Holds Talks *[Baghdad Radio]* 47
Joint Action Program Signed *[INA]* 48
Talks With Kuwaitis on MIA's Held in Geneva *[Amman TV]* 48
Sudanese Minister Commends Iraqi Faith Campaign *[AL-'IRAQ 26 Aug]* 48
Paper Urges Turkey To Cooperate at Border *[AL-THAWRAH 26 Aug]* 48
Praises Turkish Decision, Notes Interests *[AL-THAWRAH 1 Sep]* 49
Syrian-Turkish-Iranian Moves Against Unity Viewed *[INA]* 49
Saddam Chairs Cabinet Session; Industrial Progress Noted *[Baghdad Radio]* 50
Soldiers, Others To Be Executed for Theft *[AL-QADISIYAH 30 Aug]* 50
Two Officers Said Executed for Visits to Kurdistan *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 50
Government Reportedly Mutilates 800 Deserters *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 50
Currency Dealings Banned Outside Licensed Offices *[AL-THAWRAH 1 Sep]* 50
PUK-KDP Committee Issues Instructions to Media *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 51
Kurds' Normalization Committee Makes Proposals *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 51

ISRAEL

Rabin Cited on Golan, Jerusalem, Other Issues 53
Stresses Dangers Posed by 'Radical Islam' *[HA'ARETZ 2 Sep]* 54
Relays Message to Morocco's King Hassan *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 4 Sep]* 55
Sarid, Ben-Eli'ezer Comment on Talks With Syria *[Jerusalem TV]* 55
Poll Shows Majority Support for Golan Withdrawal *[Jerusalem Radio]* 55
Foreign Ministry's Bentzur Discusses Ties With U.S. *[DAVAR 2 Sep]* 55
Envoy Relays Appeal to Mauritania on Relations *[Jerusalem TV]* 56
Moves Under Way To Establish Ties With Tunisia *[HA'ARETZ 2 Sep]* 57
Envoys Told To Apologize Over Bhutto Incident *[HA'ARETZ 4 Sep]* 57
Bodies of 2 Arabs Found; Riot Dispersed in Hebron *[Jerusalem Radio]* 57
Ministry To Help Palestinians Fight Pollution *[THE JERUSALEM POST 2 Sep]* 57

JORDAN

Prime Minister, PNA Ministers Discuss Cooperation *[Amman Radio]* 59
Deputy Condones Shedding of Jewish Blood *[AL-RASIF 4 Sep]* 59
Relations With Saudi Arabia Said Improving *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 60
Ties With Saudi Arabia, Gulf Heading Toward Revival *[AL-MAJD 5 Sep]* 60
Daily 'Optimistic' About Relations With Gulf States *[AL-DUSTUR 6 Sep]* 60
Officials on Progress of Ties With Saudi Arabia, Kuwait *[AL-ASWAQ 6 Sep]* 61
Islamists Appeal to Oman's Qabus To Release Clerics *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 7 Sep]* 61
SHIHAN Reports on Carlos' Life in Amman 61
Crown Prince Addresses Modernization, Development Team *[Amman TV]* 62
Bank Governor Predicts Move To Convertible Dinar *[JORDAN TIMES 4 Sep]* 62
EC, European Investment Bank To Aid Water Projects *[Amman Radio]* 63
Authorities 'Dissatisfied' With Airbus Contract *[London AL-HAYAH 2 Sep]* 63

LEBANON

Lebanese Forces Revokes Recognition of al-Ta'if Accord *[Voice of the South]* 64
Leaders Return From Summit in Damascus *[Beirut Radio]* 64

Buwayz Rejects Rabin's Remarks on Syrian Deployment *[Beirut Radio]* 65
Jordanian Parliament Speaker Meets Birri, Comments *[Beirut Radio]* 65
Phalangist Leader Criticizes 'Housing' of Palestinians *[VOL]* 65
Shams-al-Din Issues Fatwa Against Cairo Meeting *[AFP]* 65
Fadlallah: Al-Ta'if Accord U.S. Attempt To Dominate *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 65

SYRIA

Information Minister Discusses Peace Process *[Damascus Radio]* 67
Commentary: Israeli Optimism on Peace Unwarranted *[Damascus Radio]* 68
Civilian Infrastructure on Golan Expanded *[Jerusalem TV]* 69

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Party Leaders Reject Talks With Dostom *[Kabul Radio]* 70
UN Envoy Mestiri Visits Badakhshan, Feyzabad *[Kabul Radio]* 70
Radio Reports Defection of Dostam Commanders *[Kabul Radio]* 70
25 Killed, 61 Injured in Kabul Rocket Attacks *[Kabul Radio]* 70
At Least 5 Factions Involved *[Tehran Radio]* 71
Government Claims Successes in Lowgar, Balkh, Ghowr *[Kabul Radio]* 71
Offensive Reportedly Repulsed in Meydan Province *[Kabul Radio]* 71

Bangladesh

Opposition Says Government Withdrawing From Talks *[AFP]* 71
South Korean Prime Minister Pays Official Visit 72
Discusses Economic Issues With Zia *[Seoul THE KOREA HERALD 4 Sep]* 72
Speeches Exchanged at Banquet *[Dhaka Radio]* 72
Yi Yong-tok Ends Visit *[Dhaka Radio]* 73

India

Rao Departs on Visits to Vietnam, Singapore *[Delhi Radio]* 73
Labor Minister Leaves for Beijing *[Delhi Radio]* 73
South Korean Trade Minister Holds Talks *[Delhi Radio]* 74
Spokesman Regrets Hurriyat Presence at ICO *[Delhi Radio]* 74
Pakistan Said Distributing Bombs Disguised as Fruit *[Delhi Radio]* 74
Scientists Claim Nuclear Installations Well Guarded *[INDIAN EXPRESS 29 Aug]* 74

Iran

Velayati Views Oman Visit, Regional Issues *[IRNA]* 75
Croat Ambassador Summoned To Explain Arrest *[Tehran Radio]* 75
Yazdi Cited on German Spy, Satellite Dishes, Argentina *[Tehran Radio]* 76
UK Intelligence Reportedly Helped Supply Missiles *[London THE SUNDAY TIMES 4 Sep]* 76
Editorial Sees Need for Asian Alliance To Oppose U.S. *[HAMSHAHRI 30 Aug]* 77
Afghanistan Urged To Cooperate With ICO, UN *[Tehran Radio]* 77
Turkish Government Said Concerned by Welfare Party Power
[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 29 Aug] 78
Impact of Morocco-Israel Relations on Area Viewed *[Tehran Radio]* 78
Khamene'i: Clinton 'Incapable' of Solving Problems *[Tehran Radio]* 79
Press Comments on Clinton's 'Spiteful Remarks' 79
Wants 'To Confront' Iran *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 27 Aug]* 79
Terrorism Charges Ridiculed *[RESALAT 27 Aug]* 80
Paper Discusses U.S., Zionist 'Plots' *[KEYHAN 27 Aug]* 80
U.S. Position on Gas Accord Criticized *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 25 Aug]* 82
Editorial Sees Need To Comprehend U.S. Policy *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 28 Aug]* 82
Opposition Groups Issue Statement on Tabriz Unrest *[Voice of Iranian Kordestan]* 83
Daily on Countering Latest Moves by Opposition *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 29 Aug]* 83

President Addresses Seminar on Banking *[IRNA]* 85
Central Bank Governor Announces New Investment Schemes *[Tehran Radio]* 85
Central Bank Governor Confident of Economic Outlook *[IRNA]* 86
Bank Governor Comments on Development Projects *[HAMSHAHRI 25 Aug]* 86
Government Bonds To Finance Public, Private Projects *[Tehran TV]* 87

Pakistan

Sharif Explains Comments on Nuclear Capability *[London AL-WASAT 11 Sep]* 87
Bhutto Interviewed on Regional Issues *[THE NATION 5 Sep]* 88
'No Immediate Plan' for Recognition of Israel *[Islamabad TV]* 90
People's Party Welcomes Raphel Remarks on Kashmir *[Islamabad Radio]* 90
Defense Minister Rules Out 'Imminent' War With India *[THE NEWS 5 Sep]* 90
Armed Forces Chiefs Authorized To Buy Defense Equipment *[NAWA-I-WAQT 28 Aug]* 90
$50 Million Kickback Reportedly Paid in F-16 Deal *[THE MUSLIM 2 Sep]* 91

Islamic Affairs

ICO Head Views ICPD, Bosnia, Afghanistan

NC0609092694 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 29 Aug 94 pp 1, 14

[From the City Desk]

[Text] Tehran—The Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) [Islamic Conference Organization, ICO] head believes the proposed draft for the population conference in Cairo has several aspects which are contrary to Islam.

OIC Secretary General, Hamid al-Ghabid, in an interview with the TEHRAN TIMES, said, "I can single out three major aspects in the Cairo population draft which are contrary to the Islamic Shari'ah. One of three is the provision of abortion which is considered a crime in Islam." He added that another anti-Islamic factor is premarital relations.

Al-Ghabid does not agree with the proposal to be presented at the Cairo conference next month in which a recommendation is to be made to give unlimited freedom to children with no pressure from parents.

"For these reasons, all Muslim countries believe that the anti-Islamic provisions should be omitted from the population draft," the OIC head said.

He was in Tehran to attend a two-day seminar on the future prospects of Bosnia-Herzegovina which concluded yesterday.

Al-Ghabid wished that Islamic nations would be present at the conference, to be held Sept. 5-13, so that necessary amendments to the draft may be made.

He said that all member states of the United Nations will participate in the Cairo conference and that if the Islamic nations find themselves in the minority, they should keep a distance from the resolution.

On the arms embargo against Bosnian Muslims, al-Ghabid recalled that the OIC Contact Group met in Geneva in the first week of this month where it reviewed the proposal of Western countries' Contact Group.

"We have decided to review the reaction of the Western countries on current events in that Balkan state and we are waiting for a firm decision of the Security Council which is supposed to review the proposal for lifting the embargo," he said. The OIC will be happy if the Security Council lifts the arms embargo.

"Otherwise," he said, "every country will be free to decide unilaterally."

Commenting on Afghanistan, al-Ghabid said, "The present uncertain situation in that country is an obstacle to bringing the leaders from various factions to the negotiating table."

He said that all factions have approved a commission comprising their representatives to meet soon in order to write a new constitution and decide the course of general elections.

Al-Ghabid expressed his sorrow that, despite all efforts, Kabul is devastated by bombs.

"We firmly believe that the solution to Afghanistan's problems is political, and nothing else." al-Ghabid concluded.

Iran's Velayati Arrives in Islamabad for ICO Meeting

LD0609215294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1830 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Our country's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati arrived in Islamabad this afternoon heading a delegation to the extraordinary foreign ministers' meeting of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] member states. He was officially welcomed by his Pakistani counterpart and other officials. [passage omitted]

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 30 Aug

NC0309094594

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 30 August issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS

1. AL-SHA'B Reporter Banned From Attending ICPD
2. Islamic Medical Organizations Union Rejects ICPD
3. Engineers Union Branch Condemns Draft Labor Law
4. Labor Party Celebrates Prophet's Birthday, Figures Speak
5. Writer Calls On People To Boycott Government Papers on 5 Sep
6. Articles, Reports Condemn, Criticize ICPD
7. Writer Criticizes Mufti's Inconstant Stand on ICPD
8. Writer Sees Blows to Islamic Nations as Blessings in Disguise
9. Al-Ghazali Condemns ICPD Convention in Egypt, Philosophies
10. Article Reveals Poor Quality of News Reporting on TV, Radio
11. Eliminating Terrorism Requires Comprehensive Reform Policy

AL-SHA'B REPORTERS BANNED FROM ATTENDING ICPD

A 200-word report on page 1 says that on 29 August, two weeks after the newspaper AL-SHA'B submitted its list of reporters participating in the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], UN officials rejected this list. This decision "angered reporters from various Egyptian and Arab newspapers" who had gone to get their identity cards, "particularly as a result

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of the inappropriate tone used by the UN official (an American) supervising the conference." The report lists the AL-SHA'B correspondents who applied to attend the conference, noting that the UN official said that AL-SHA'B reporter 'Amir 'Abd-al-Mun'im was totally banned from attending, while the others had to get "a certificate of good conduct and behavior from the Information Ministry's media center and had to pledge not to cause any trouble."

ISLAMIC MEDICAL ORGANIZATIONS UNION REJECTS ICPD

Page 1 also publishes a 400-word report stating that the Islamic Medical Organizations Union rejects the ICPD. On 29 August the Union was addressed by 'Adil Husayn, economic counselor of the Union and secretary general of the Labor Party, who said that the Union objects to the conference and vehemently rejects it because "it believes that there is no real crisis regarding the scarcity of resources in relation to population figures." Husayn maintains that the basic problem is corrupt economic regimes that monopolize resources around the world and "that have spread poverty in the Third World," in addition to policies restricting immigration to resource-rich areas. He claims that the Islamic World in general does not suffer from population growth. The report also cites speeches by other Union members, who condemn the ICPD's document "that violates the divine religions."

ENGINEERS UNION BRANCH CONDEMNS DRAFT LABOR LAW

A 300-word report on pages 1 and 7 notes that the conference of the Engineers Union, al-Daqahliyah Branch, condemns the new draft labor law, which it maintains violates Islamic shari'ah. It says that the draft law reveals much "injustice and oppression toward employees and creates a state of psychological and social instability for these employees and their families." According to the report, the draft law "forces working women to use birth control, because it restricts them to two maternity leaves for a period of 12 weeks each time." The conference asks all popular figures and organizations to confront this draft law. It praises al-Azhar's stances on the ICPD and the school uniform issue.

LABOR PARTY CELEBRATES PROPHET'S BIRTHDAY, FIGURES SPEAK

Page 2 carries a 2,500-word report by Subhi Buhayri on the Labor Party's celebrations of the Prophet's birthday, which was attended by Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri; Shaykh Mustafa Mashhur, deputy general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood; prominent Nasirist figure Farid 'Abd-al-Karim; Shaykh Jamal al-Qutb, al-Azhar deputy and People's Assembly member; and Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna, secretary general of the Lawyers' Association; among others. The speakers expressed their opinions on the ICPD; the continued state of emergency in Egypt; the government's lost battle over headscarves; the deteriorating situation in Iraq, Libya, Sudan, and the other "besieged Islamic nations"; and other topics.

Mustafa Mashhur delivered a speech to the conference in which he discussed the reasons no one defends the rights of "humiliated Muslims" around the world. He believes it is "because of the absence of the Islamic state we are striving to establish." He stressed that leaders will not be able to repress the Islamic awakening. He accused governments of creating terrorism because "they have wrongly believed that they will be able to extinguish God's light." Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna also addressed the conference, urging people to oppose all issues that violate the teachings of God's prophet.

Islamic Preacher Shaykh Jamal al-Qutb wondered about the advantages to Egypt of the battle over headscarves, which he said the government recently started and lost. He also asked: "How will the Egyptian people benefit from inviting the homosexuals of the world to present their perverse opinions in the Cairo of al-Azhar?" Concluding, he asked whether it is worth "renting out the pure land of Egypt to these rotten people for $240 million?"

WRITER CALLS ON PEOPLE TO BOYCOTT GOVERNMENT PAPERS ON 5 SEP

'Abdallah al-Hilal authors an 800-word article on page 2 entitled: "An Urgent Call to the Egyptian People: Let Us Invent New Methods To Confront the Suspect Conference." He explains in his article that there are stages of confrontation between the people and their governments. The first stage is the establishment of councils that express the opinions of the people; the second is the emergence of a free media; and the third includes demonstrations and peaceful strikes. "Wise governments," he clarifies, "should not fear the third method, but should turn it into a valve through which people vent their frustrations." Weak, corrupt regimes are worried that such demonstrations will topple them, he adds, so they quell them. This is the situation in our country now, a situation that al-Hilal believes has been repeated all over the world in countries such as Iran, the Philippines, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Poland, Albania, and others, where revolution was postponed, not prevented, until it actually erupted. He proposes a new and peaceful kind of rejection; in this case, boycotting government papers on a specific date. "This is a call," he says, "to every patriotic person to express his protest by refusing to buy government papers on the first day of the conference." Al-Hilal believes such a step by the masses would send a message to the government.

ARTICLES, REPORTS CONDEMN, CRITICIZE ICPD

Page 3 features various reports on the ICPD in Cairo. It carries the broad headline: "The Countdown Has Started for the Conference on Abortion and Sexual Promiscuity." One report claims that an international organization is seeking to transform family planning societies

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into centers for facilitating prostitution. Another article by Jordanian and former Islamist deputy Layth Shubaylat maintains that "human annihilation is the public and official policy of the world order." A third report, with a large picture of two purported homosexuals, maintains that homosexuals have gained the recognition of Western governments and now wish to demonstrate in Cairo.

WRITER CRITICIZES MUFTI'S INCONSTANT STAND ON ICPD

Muhammad Hilmi Murad presents a 2,000-word report on page 5 in which he discusses the stands of al-Azhar and the mufti of the republic on the ICPD. He begins by asking Egypt to play a leading role among Islamic countries as host of the conference in revealing the parts in the ICPD's document that violate Islamic shari'ah. Murad feels it is not enough for Egypt alone to reject certain paragraphs of the ICPD's document, but that it has to exert efforts to change these paragraphs together with other Islamic countries. He then demands that statements issued by al-Azhar, the Vatican, and the Coptic Church be included in the ICPD's documents. Murad proceeds to discuss the mufti's double-minded and conflicting statements on the ICPD. The mufti first "denied the existence of anything in the ICPD draft recommendations that violates Islamic teachings, encourages extra-marital promiscuous sexual relations, or supports abortion as a birth control means," blaming the choice of words in the Arabic translation for the ambiguity in the text. Murad criticizes the mufti on the grounds that he is not a translator and cannot judge such matters. In addition, Murad notes, the Islamic Research Center's resolutions on the ICPD, which accuse the ICPD of violating Islamic doctrines on the family, abortion, and extramarital, premarital, and homosexual relations, contradict the mufti's statement. Two days after his first statement, Murad reports, the mufti changed his stance, claiming that in the meantime he had studied a copy of the ICPD's draft working paper. Murad notes: "The mufti admitted—and admitting one's mistake is a virtue—the validity of all the criticisms and violations of Islamic teachings leveled against the draft: Equality between men and women in inheritance, allowing family planning among couples who live as husband and wife—something allowable only between legally married couples—and recognizing relationships between two people other than marriage." He asks officials in Egypt not to allow homosexuals to come anywhere near Egyptian soil. Murad concludes his report by criticizing the wavering stances of the mufti, who reportedly asked the public not to consider his statements an official statement issued by the mufti's office. He wonders who has official religious power in Egypt, the mufti's office or the Islamic Research Center headed by the al-Azhar shaykh, and demands that this issue be resolved.

WRITER SEES BLOWS TO ISLAMIC NATIONS AS BLESSINGS IN DISGUISE

Mustafa Mashhur, in his 2,000-word "O Muslims" column on page 5, discusses the various crises befalling Muslims around the world, which he maintains are blessings in disguise because "these blows and wars have become warning bells awakening the Muslims and prompting them to be cautious, take action, and realize the plots being hatched against them." He laments that some governments are putting pressure on this Islamic awakening by trying, imprisoning, and torturing those who exhibit such an awakening. In addition, governments encourage corrupt people to spread their poisons. Mashhur quotes Koranic verses at length to support his views. He then lists all the crises that have befallen the Muslims and the blessings that have emerged from them, such as in Palestine, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kashmir, Yemen, and in Egypt. He says: "Egypt was forced to apply socialism, which was an evil thing. But after socialism bequeathed poverty, destruction, and losses, people rejected it, particularly after the collapse of communism, and resorted to Islam, the holy solution to their problems." He gives the recent example of the decision on headscarves, which alerted the people and made them exert pressure until it was reversed. He concludes by saying that these blows to the Islamic nation from its enemies "had and will continue to have a positive effect on this nation, will make it more cohesive, active, and alert, and will increase its capacity for jihad and martyrdom."

AL-GHAZALI CONDEMNS ICPD CONVENTION IN EGYPT, PHILOSOPHIES

Muhammad al-Ghazali, in his 500-word "This is Our Religion" column on page 12, criticizes the decision to convene the ICPD in Egypt. He starts by praising God for everything he has given mankind. He also sings the praises of mankind in turning the desert green and sweetening salty water. But, he notes, mankind has also made the atom bomb that can destroy the world ten times over. "Then they claim that the resources of the world are not enough for the people on it," he says. He proceeds to note that people have been calling for decreasing population growth, sanctioning abortion, and encouraging homosexuality. Many people who have never known God or believed in him "are now preparing to march on the Islamic world to convince it of their destructive philosophy." At the same time, the Arabs live on a land of gold which they have not exploited and on which, if they were to cultivate it, they could grow enough to feed twice their present number. He concludes with the question: "But where are the men?"

ARTICLE REVEALS POOR QUALITY OF NEWS REPORTING ON TV, RADIO

An article on page 12 by al-Sayyid Ghadban entitled "Television Between News and Advertisements" criticizes the poor quality of newscasts on television. Ghadban believes that news reporting in Egypt is not objective or neutral and cannot really be called news, and that commentary and analysis programs always select those people who support government views. He notes that news reports and programs on Egyptian television are pure propaganda. He concludes his article

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with the following: "I call on the opposition forces in Egypt, as I have previously done, to exert efforts to own television and news stations that specialize in confronting government media." Opposition newspapers, he notes, cannot compete with the power of radio and television. He closes by asking: "Will the opposition forces take action to demand their natural right or will they remain prisoners of this media siege imposed by the government's monopoly on radio and television?"

ELIMINATING TERRORISM REQUIRES COMPREHENSIVE REFORM POLICY

A 400-word article by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Quddus entitled "The Logic of Dictatorship" appears under the "Sons of One Country" rubric on page 12. The article is in the form of a dialogue between the writer and a fictional government supporter. The government supporter advocates arresting fundamentalists who threaten the stability of the country and commit terrorist acts, while 'Abd-al-Quddus maintains that he does not advocate violence and terrorism, but does not support the government's policies either. The government supporter defends the government's iron-fist policy against fundamentalists, while 'Abd-al-Quddus reasons that, though terrorism happens elsewhere, those governments do not arrest thousands of citizens at random. The article concludes with 'Abd-al-Quddus stipulating that the reason for Europe's success in combating terrorism lies in the fact that "they are progressive and developed in governing their people. Government is rotated among parties and there is no ruler above suspicion. In addition, a ruler does not stay in his position for life." 'Abd-al-Qaddus maintains that Europe "succeeded in combating terrorism because they fight corruption at the same time and protect human rights and public freedoms." He notes that confronting terrorism requires a comprehensive reform policy.

Political Islam Review: 'AQIDATI 30 Aug

NC0209170794

[Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 30 August issue of the Arabic-language newspaper Cairo 'AQIDATI that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS

1. Writer Says Ulema Realize Importance of ICPD
2. Al-Azhar Deputy Says Al-Azhar Welcomes ICPD
3. Islamic League Head Explains Tasks
4. Attempts To Undermine Egypt's Islamic Status Said Doomed
5. Al-Azhar Rector Elaborates on Role in the Islamic World
6. Writer Sees Divine Help for Bosnian Soldiers Against Serbs
7. Writer Urges 24-Hour TV Programs To Offset Foreign Culture

WRITER SAYS ULEMA REALIZE IMPORTANCE OF ICPD

In a 250-word article in his front-page "Rightfully I Say" column, Samir Rajab, the newspaper's chairman of the board, notes that the picture has become clear to certain ulema regarding the International Conference of Development and Population [ICPD]. They now realize that the issues proposed for debate concern first and foremost mankind everywhere and at all times, and they will affect the future of mankind for the next two decades. He regrets that certain ulema's feelings were stirred up by a small minority who insist that Egypt remain "shackled and isolated from the world." They forget that Egypt is no longer what it used to be in the past. The world now "believes in Egypt's ideology and supports its policy based on the principles of right, justice, and peace." He goes on to say that our ulema should have taken their time before passing judgements, because the basic chracteristics of an ulema is "objectivity and disinterestedness." He assures the ulema that religion in Egypt will remain "safe and sound" as long as the constitutional institutions are assured of not abandoning Islamic teachings.

AL-AZHAR DEPUTY SAYS AL-AZHAR WELCOMES ICPD

In a 60-word report on page 1, Shaykh Sayyid Sa'ud, al-Azhar deputy rector and secretary general of the Islamic Research Council, stresses that "al-Azhar welcomes the convening of the ICPD in Cairo and states that it was not opposed to it, but only to abortion and homosexuality." He says that al-Azhar explained God's word on abortion and homosexuality, an issue which was settled by a statement released by the Islamic Research Council.

ISLAMIC LEAGUE HEAD EXPLAINS TASKS

'AQIDATI publishes on pages 1 and 20 a 1,000-word interview with Dr. Ahmad Muhammad 'Ali, Secretary General of the Islamic World League, conducted in Mecca by correspondent Muhammad al-Abnudi. 'Ali praises Egypt's efforts and its firm stance in support of Islamic causes and in resolving Muslims' problems everywhere. He expresses his appreciation for President Mubarak's stance on the issues slated for debate at the ICPD and his emphasis on the Islamic countries' right to express their views on the ICPD issues. He calls on Islamic countries to "participate positively in the conference," project a civilized image of Islam, and emphasize Muslims' ability to engage in dialogues. On the League's tasks, he says that the Islamic World League is a "popular establishment" that aims to "support Islamic action" and propagation in the Islamic world, and to help Muslim minorities everywhere and take care of the newly independent peoples of the former Soviet Union. Enumerating the League's achievements, he notes its efforts to mobilize world public opinion to lift the blockade on Bosnia, the aid it has provided to the Bosnians, and in arbitrating disputes in Afghanistan and

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Yemen. He emphasizes that the Islamic establishments should map out a cooperation strategy among the Islamic countries to "confront the dangers of the GATT agreement." He says that through the GATT agreement the industrial nations seek to "perpetuate the subservience of the developing world," noting that this agreement is an alarm bell to which the Islamic world should rise and face the challenge.

ATTEMPTS TO UNDERMINE EGYPT'S ISLAMIC STATUS SAID DOOMED

In his 600-word column "In All Frankness," on page 6, Basyuni al-Halawani notes statements made by ulema participating at the International Islamic Conference held in Pakistan and at another Islamic conference in Alexandria. He maintains that while these statements expressing appreciation to Egypt, its leadership, and al-Azhar and its ulema offer nothing new to Egypt's Islamic status in promoting Islam's causes worldwide, they serve to demonstrate that "attempts by certain governments and establishments to undermine Egypt's leading role and shake the Muslims' confidence in Egypt are doomed."

AL-AZHAR RECTOR ELABORATES ON ROLE IN THE ISLAMIC WORLD

In a 500-word article on page 7, al-Azhar rector Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq elaborates on the historical role of al-Azhar in promoting Islam. He says al-Azhar has consistently served the Muslims and the Islamic call worldwide. It lived with their ideological and political problems, received students from all Islamic countries and provided them with true Islamic teachings. Al-Azhar has always been a "beacon for Muslims," spreading light and knowledge and "safeguarding the Arabic language and Islamic culture" when the Islamic countries were the victims of Western colonization. In addition, al-Azhar played a leading role in fostering harmony and solidarity among Islamic peoples. It sends preachers and ulema to Islamic countries to promote the tolerant Islamic call.

WRITER SEES DIVINE HELP FOR BOSNIAN SOLDIERS AGAINST SERBS

In a 400-word article on page 10, Majdi Salim argues that the reasons for the Bosnian Muslims' steadfastness in fighting the Serbs are the same as the ones that helped the Afghan mujahidin to stand up to Soviet aggression. This is God's wisdom in helping and serving Muslim soldiers.

WRITER URGES 24-HOUR TV PROGRAMS TO OFFSET FOREIGN CULTURE

In a 400-word article in the "After Greeting" column published on page 18, 'Adil al-Halfawi discusses Egyptian television programming. He notes that much of the featured material is stale and uninteresting. He stresses that in view of the enormous advance in communications satellite technology, there is a need for 24-hour broadcasts of useful and interesting programs in order to "fortify the Egyptian personality" against the cultural invasion of foreign channels. He says that ample time must be given to "Arab and Islamic culture," religious programs, and political programs on regional and international developments to respond to "calumnies against Arab culture."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat To Visit Jordan, Meet With King Husayn

JN0709080794 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 7 Sep pp 1, 26

[Report by Tawfiq 'Abid]

[Text] Amman—'Umar al-Khatib, known as Abu-Shamikh, Palestinian charge d'affaires in Amman, said arrangements are under way to prepare for President Yasir 'Arafat's anticipated visit to Jordan.

Answering a question by AL-DUSTUR, he said the visit will take place soon, but he did not give an exact date. He said Jordanian-Palestinian contacts are under way to fix the date.

Reports disseminated over the past two days say President 'Arafat's visit could take place early next week, after His Majesty King Husayn has returned from his European tour. Al-Khatib added that he will contact senior officials in the National Authority to find out the date of 'Arafat's visit. He will also try to ascertain the arrival date of a delegation to Jordan headed by Culture Minister Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, which will coordinate with Jordan on the issue of the return of the displaced before the meeting of the quadripartite committee, whose date has not been fixed yet. Representatives from Jordan, Egypt, the Palestinian Authority, and Israel will participate in this meeting.

Palestinian sources said the Palestinian-Jordanian summit will discuss bilateral ties in a bid to normalize them after three months of retreat and agree to real coordination on issues of water, evacuees, and refugees as well as cooperation in various fields. This will be 'Arafat's first visit since his return to the self-rule area. It is still not known whether he will arrive in Amman via the King Husayn Bridge or Cairo.

'Arafat: Israelis Not Fulfilling Peace Agreement

AU0609152094 Munich FOCUS in German 5 Sep 94 p 15

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by unidentified correspondent in Gaza; date not given]

[Text] [FOCUS] You have been here in Gaza for two months and you have already stated that you are desperate. Why?

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['Arafat] I did not really mean that. I am only disappointed because the Israelis are not fulfilling our agreement. Let me give you an example: The connection road between Gaza and Jericho has not been opened yet.

[FOCUS] Can the peace process still be stopped?

['Arafat] We have suffered a great deal for this peace. Even if the other side does not fulfill what it has signed, we will continue. Moreover, peace is not merely a Palestinian need but an international must.

[FOCUS] You were very annoyed about Jordan's initiative to make peace with Israel....

['Arafat] I only stated that Jerusalem should be discussed at a later date—exclusively with us. Jerusalem is the Palestinian capital and the holy city for the Muslims and the Christians.

[FOCUS] Do you receive enough support from the Europeans?

['Arafat] So far, little has been done. We do not only expect money; I also need German technology. A second Singapore will be created here. We have even overtaken the Israelis: Eighteen out of 1,000 Palestinians are university graduates, in the Israeli population only 14. In the future, we will be the economic tiger in the Middle East.

[FOCUS] Will you go to Tel Aviv if Israeli Prime Minister Rabin invites you?

['Arafat] Why not?

[FOCUS] What about Jerusalem?

['Arafat] Sooner or later, I will pray there.

PLO's 'Abbas on Jordan Ties, PNC Session

JN0509132594 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 3 Sep 94 p 3

[Interview with Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the PLO Executive Committee, by Rashid Khashshanah in Tunis; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Khashshanah] Are you satisfied with the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli accord?

['Abbas] A long time had passed before the two parties began implementation of the accord. I believe that wasting such time was not in our interest at all. I hope that no more time will be wasted now that the implementation has begun. [passage omitted]

We should concentrate on two basic issues: First, we must embark on the implementation of economic projects and prepare for elections and democratization. Regarding the first issue, I cannot find one single excuse for obstructing these projects. If the terms of the donor states and the World Bank are not different from the terms required from other countries, then nothing should prevent us from meeting these terms and agreeing on them.

The second issue is to prove to the people, neighbors, and the world that we are a democratic people and that we will adopt a democratic system that will guarantee pluralism, as well as political, economic, and social liberties. This requires reassuring signs to the people, starting now. I cannot judge by the practices that have so far been taken place and which are contrary to what I am saying. We must give the [Palestinian National] Authority [PNA] a longer opportunity to judge in its favor or against it. [passage omitted]

[Khashshsanah] What is the status of the Fatah Central Committee, the organizational frameworks, and the legislative and executive institutions?

['Abbas] In the wake of each event, a state of confusion occurs in the ranks of Fatah, and the organizational frameworks and the legislative and executive institutions are shaken. This happened after our departure from Amman in 1970 and from Beirut in 1982. The same thing happened after the foundation of the movement in 1965 and lasted for more than two years.

Today, as we return to the homeland, we will see confusion in the institutions because some of these institutions will return while others will stay abroad. Consequently, the meetings, departments, and institutions will face a state of confusion. Some people try to claim that the meetings of the Fatah Central Committee are being held in Tunis because a division or split has taken place within the movement. In fact, nothing of this has happened and no official or semi-official meetings have taken place although some brothers might have met socially to discuss issues that concern all.

Since we are in the first stages of our return, such a situation will continue for several months until things return to normal as in the past.

[Khashshanah] What is the nature of the Jordanian-Palestinian relations following the Washington Declaration between the Jordanian monarch and the prime minister of Israel?

['Abbas] Nobody has the right to object to the Washington Declaration signed between Jordan and Israel. We, in particular, have no right to this because we signed the Declaration of Principles with the Israelis in Washington. Nothing in the Jordanian-Israeli declaration is detrimental to us. However, I cannot deny that the Palestinian-Jordanian relationship is in a serious state of coolness, which could reach a tense level. Tension resulted from the coordination talks in which agreement could have been reached between the two parties, particularly in the economic matters. With deep regret, the failure to reach an agreement caused tension in relations.

In my opinion, the Palestinians are in a dire need of clear and frank relations with Jordan. We might disagree on

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everything, and we might agree on everything. However, frankness must prevail so that the cards will not be shuffled and so as not to build our relationship on ambiguity that would destroy these relations. [passage omitted]

[Khashshanah] What do you think of the issue being raised about holding a Palestine National Council [PNC] session in Gaza?

['Abbas] [passage omitted] In the mutual recognition documents, we gave our approval to cancel some of the clauses of the PLO Charter conditional on the PNC's approval to cancel these clauses. This is because amending the PLO Charter needs the PNC's approval. I do not think we went back on what we signed in the document of mutual recognition. We cannot go back on that because our credibility before the world would be shaken.

From this premise, convening the PNC is important but not in order to discuss this clause alone. It must also perform its legislative duty as the highest point of reference for all Palestinian institutions. Therefore, I believe that the PNC should convene in stages after holding Palestinian elections in the West Bank. By then, the representation of the Palestinian people will be completed under one framework and representation would be more comprehensive and will have more authority.

I would like to point out a legal issue: amending the PLO Charter requires the approval of two thirds of the PNC members. When Palestinian independence was announced in 1988, the declaration of independence was unanimously recognized. It is well known that some clauses of the declaration of independence contradict the PLO Charter. If we look back to the declaration of independence, we will notice that a lot of what came in the mutual recognition document are in harmony with what came in the declaration of independence. This means that some aspects of the PLO Charter have been amended.

[Khashshanah] Is there Arab-Palestinian coordination or did coordination disappear for good, as they say?

['Abbas] Very often we carry slogans, and we forget the occasion during which this or that slogan was carried. Hence, over time the slogan remains, and we forget the occasion. This applies to the slogan of Arab coordination during the Washington negotiations.

Before we went to Madrid, the concerned Arab parties had rejected the idea of Arab coordination so that each party would not commit itself to the circumstances of the other. However, after a lot of insistence, they agreed on a fragile level of coordination that deals with fixing the date for the start and end of the negotiating round. This coordination did not address any small or big issues concerning the various tracks and the contents of the negotiations on these tracks.

When we signed the Declaration of Principles, it was said that we singled ourselves out. Jordan followed, and it was said that it singled itself out. Syria and Lebanon will also follow, and I do not know who will accuse them of singling themselves out. Unfortunately, there was no Arab coordination in the first place to say that it has gone for good. [passage omitted]

[Khashshanah] Are you so far satisfied with the decisions of the PNA? What do you think of the policy of appointment used at the municipal councils and for other positions?

['Abbas] I refuse to stand with the opposition against the PNA and to criticize it or its behavior because the PNA is the result of efforts I took part in and is an accomplishment which I helped achieve. I am proud of this accomplishment and will never regret that whether I am inside or outside the PNA. The issue is not personal, but it is a national issue that is of importance to the people, the territories, the homeland, and the future.

I said I do not like many decisions, especially those dealing with public liberties, some provocative appointments, and some economic activities by some suspect people. However, this does not prevent me from issuing a final verdict on the PNA and its activities and decisions now that one month has passed since it began work.

Inasmuch as I call for taking public interest into consideration in making decisions, I also feel sorry for the men in the PNA who work without any prerogatives or potentials and under conditions which do not call for envy.

Sha'th Accuses Israel of Delays in Negotiations

AU0609202094 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 6 Sep 94 p 5

[Interview with PLO chief negotiator Nabil Sha'th by Armin Wertz; place and date not given: "Israel Is Narrowing Its Leeway With Many No's"]

[Text] [Wertz] Dr. Sha'th, one year after the Oslo agreement and four months after the Cairo agreement, a number of questions are still open that should have been clarified long ago. Thus, the territory of Jericho has not been set down. Are there any negotiations under way?

[Sha'th] Officially yes, but nothing is happening. When we meet and present proposals, the Israelis regularly say: "We do not have any instructions. Goodbye."

[Wertz] Why? Is Palestinian access to the Dead Sea the point?

[Sha'th] The Israelis are narrowing their own leeway with many no's. Do not get too close to the Dead Sea, do not get too close to the Jordan River, or do not get too close to the road to Jerusalem.

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[Wertz] In the Cairo agreement, it is set down that the Palestinians are to have access to the Dead Sea.

[Sha'th] Only for economic projects. We will not have any political rights there.

[Wertz] All in all, however, things seem to be making progress?

[Sha'th] Yes, over the past few days, we have approached each other regarding the issues of the transit routes between Gaza and Jericho and the issue of the presence of international observers. We are now trying to make up for the time that has been lost because of Israel. They are constantly delaying. They have delayed the opening of the transit routes and the release of prisoners. They should have done these things immediately after the agreements were signed, and they did not do that.

[Wertz] Was this why PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat delayed his arrival for such a long time?

[Sha'th] Yes, and he will not go to Jericho before the transit routes are opened.

[Wertz] Israel is accusing the PLO of being responsible for the delays: They could have withdrawn from Gaza earlier, but the Palestinian police were not prepared, so 'Arafat even asked to postpone the withdrawal.

[Sha'th] The only difference at that time was that the Israelis withdrew on 18 May instead of, as planned, 10 May. Is this the problem? Today we have a delay of four or five months and we are to be blamed for one week. According to the agreement, the negotiations about the transfer of administrative spheres in the West Bank should have begun last October. However, the Israelis have postponed it again and again.

[Wertz] Are the spheres that are still waiting to be transferred easier to be negotiated, so that now progress could be swifter?

[Sha'th] The spheres of health, education, social affairs, taxes, and tourism, which have been decided now, include about 80 percent of all civil servants and constitute about 70 percent of the budget. In quantitative terms, they are the most important ones, but they are not the most difficult ones. The issues of land, water, borders of the autonomous territories, or road links will give us the most problems, and we are still facing these.

[Wertz] Can the elections for the Palestinian Government Council, which are scheduled for 15 December, still be held despite the delay in the negotiations?

[Sha'th] We must still negotiate the transfer of the other spheres, the withdrawal of the Israeli troops from the Palestinian towns and villages in the West Bank, the moving in by the Palestinian police, and, above all, the elections.

[Wertz] The election date will hold?

[Sha'th] It is our proposal. So far, the Israelis have not yet agreed to that.

[Wertz] Is it necessary that both sides agree to the election date?

[Sha'th] According to the agreement, the elections should have been held on 13 July. Now the Israelis say: "We will only agree to an election date that is after the conclusion of the negotiations."

[Wertz] Since the newspapers have been closed down or confiscated at 'Arafat's order, observers are asking whether the PLO is democratic enough to respect a potential election defeat?

[Sha'th] Nonsense. First of all, I do not believe that we have to fear an election defeat. Second, the problem is quite different. The Israelis have to withdraw before the elections. But we are noticing a certain resistance there.

[Wertz] Israeli troops must withdraw from the centers of Arab settlement.

[Sha'th] Yes. We want the elections because they give us legitimacy and then we will finally have a mandate. However, the Israelis once again hesitate to give us this legitimacy because as soon as they have withdrawn from Nablus, they cannot come back again, and they know that. In addition, the citizens of East Jerusalem will also participate in the elections. But the Israelis want to postpone everything that is connected with Jerusalem for a long, long time.

[Wertz] There is one point in which the PLO is clearly delaying the process. So far, it has not yet struck those articles off its charter that are discriminating Israel.

[Sha'th] This is rather impudent. Until recently, Israel banned members of the Palestinian National Council (PNC) from coming to Gaza. So, how can we hold a PNC meeting if one-third of the members cannot participate? Only two weeks ago did the Israelis give permission for the PNC members to visit Gaza. However, they limited the visit to one day. We will not accept that the PNC members may come only once to fulfill Israel's wishes and then have to disappear again. I will never accept this, even if 'Arafat were to agree. This has nothing to do with democracy. Either the PNC members can come whenever a meeting is scheduled or we do not care about this one-time permission.

[Wertz] But you do not stand a chance of achieving the necessary two-thirds majority in the PNC for changing the charter anyhow. Some members would boycott the meeting right away; others would vote against the proposals for a change.

[Sha'th] True, at the moment a change is impossible. That is why we have suggested that the Israelis wait until after the elections. That would be the right time. Then we could change the composition of the PNC by including members from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. That would give us a much better chance to push through a

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change of the charter. If they do not postpone the elections once again, we have another three and a half months.

[Wertz] How did the Israelis react?

[Sha'th] They rejected the proposal. So, I told them that I have to assume they do not want to have the elections on the scheduled date. They want us to fulfill our part, but they are delaying their part as long as possible, which is not fair. But we do not make any conditions. If they allow the PNC members to come and if they want us to vote on the charter tomorrow, then we will do it.

[Wertz] Is that a promise?

[Sha'th] No, the promise is not linked to a specific time. There are no rules on when we have to change the charter. We are just trying to use the best of all possible times for it. But Israel's promises are tied to specific times. And they have not fulfilled any of their promises on schedule. They have gone back on their promise on handing over the administration, they did not keep their promise on the elections (13 July), and they did not sign the agreement on autonomy in Gaza and Jericho on 13 December last year as promised, but on 4 May this year; they have not kept to one single schedule.

[Wertz] But the Israelis are also interested in progress; after all, 1996 is an election year.

[Sha'th] I am not accusing the Israelis of blocking the peace process. But they are delaying it.

[Wertz] There will be massive delays once the issue of Jerusalem is on the agenda. The Palestinians claim the city as theirs, and the Israelis say that Jerusalem is their capital forever.

[Sha'th] That is, of course, nonsense. For a long time they claimed that all of Palestine belongs to them.

[Wertz] So did the Palestinians.

[Sha'th] In spite of all the delays, this peace process is irreversible. It can only move forward. The world is changing, the Israelis want to be part of the Middle East, they want to make economic profits. That will not be possible before the Palestinian problem has not been solved. We have made concessions, we divided Palestine—and we will have to divide Jerusalem. There will be two Jerusalems—one will be the capital of the Palestinian state, the other the capital of the Israeli State. But it will be an open city, without walls.

[Wertz] The economic situation of the Palestinian population has not improved, dissatisfaction is growing, and the so-called donor nations are extremely cautious with their help. Is the PLO's alleged insufficient bookkeeping really the problem?

[Sha'th] Well, at the beginning, we did not have the facilities. We did not even have a bookkeeping system. But tell me, how much bookkeeping was there in Somalia when the world paid $1.7 billion to send troops there? How much was there in Rwanda, where $1.2 billion was sent?

[Wertz] Probably not much.

[Sha'th] None. It seems that the donors do not send any money until it is too late, until the crisis has become unsolvable. Will we have to wait that long?

[Wertz] Why then are the donor nations reacting so slowly?

[Sha'th] Year-long experience with Third World countries has shown that this is the typical way in which donors are going about aid programs. They have a system of their own. In the European Union, eight months pass from the formulation of an order, examination of offers, awarding of contracts, until its execution. With the U.S. organization AID, this process even takes two years. And the World Bank is no faster.

[Wertz] So, it is simply bureaucracy that is to blame?

[Sha'th] No, no. Politics plays an important role. The donor countries even refused to start any aid programs until we had signed the Cairo agreement. All promised projects were postponed so as not to put us under pressure. Once we had signed the agreement, they started their approval procedure.

[Wertz] When are you expecting the various projects to be started?

[Sha'th] Well, it will take some time. It is not until it is too late that donors contravene their usual procedures—until a Rwanda, a Somalia, or a Bosnia have emerged. A nation has to die before the rich states change their bureaucratic procedures and speed them up. That is not a political plot by the rich; it is just the system. Either the sick get well in a miraculous way and no longer need any help, as was the case with Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore—or they die; and then all help comes too late. That is a problem of the—let us call it helpers' mentality that is especially characteristic for the World Bank.

'Urayqat Reacts to Rabin Statements on Elections

JN0509182194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Local Government Minister Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat has reacted to [Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq] Rabin's statements on the Palestinian elections which he made in an interview with Israeli radio today. 'Urayqat said the elections process must be discussed through negotiations, and not the media. He noted that the Rabin government continues to block a social survey and refuses to hand over the population lists to prepare for the elections.

'Urayqat's statements were made during a visit to Hebron Municipality today where he met with the president and members of the Municipal Council.

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Meets Consuls at Orient House

TA0209130994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Sa'ib 'Urayqat, the Palestinian Authority's official in charge of municipal affairs, met with a group of foreign consuls in East Jerusalem today. Our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that Orient House staffers tried to conceal the consuls' visit, and a spokesman even claimed that Sa'ib 'Urayqat had not met with the consuls. The Greek consul, however, told our correspondent that an approximately one-hour meeting did indeed take place. He refused to say what was discussed in the meeting, but Palestinian sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the consuls heard the complaint that Israel is dragging its feet in the talks on elections in the territories.

Here are some opposition reactions to the encounter: Likud Knesset Member [MK] Yehoshu'a Matza says that when the Knesset assembles for its first winter session, his party will submit a bill under which Orient House should be closed down for illegal activity. MK Matza says that receiving ambassadors and statesmen at Orient House is a blatant challenge to Israeli sovereignty in Jerusalem.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the Tzomet faction is also demanding that Orient House be closed. MK Moshe Peled says its activity obviously contravenes the police minister's Knesset statements.

Cabinet Meets, Discusses Jerusalem, Education

JN0309195194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] The Council of Ministers in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] held its weekly session today under His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and the PNA.

The meeting began with a report submitted by Education Minister Yasir 'Amr on the ministry's preparations and plans for the scholastic year in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The council highly praised the beginning of the new scholastic year under the canopy of the PNA and the ministry's role. The council said it supports the teachers and other workers in their important role to build the society and bring up the young generation, and stressed the need to support the teachers and provide them with social security and housing projects. A committee was formed to study the situation of those working in the PNA establishments and to submit practical proposals concerning the employee wage scale. The council also thanked Education Minister Yasir 'Amr and all those working in the ministry for their efforts in drawing up development plans and preparing for the scholastic year.

The Council of Ministers also discussed the measures and plans the Jerusalem municipality is carrying out with respect to settlement expansion in and around Jerusalem. The PNA views these plans with great anxiety and considers them a blatant violation of the Declaration of Principles and the bases on which the peace process has been founded.

The PNA decided to refer this issue to the cosponsors of the peace process and to the European Union countries, and to lodge an official complaint with the UN Security Council.

The PNA urgently appealed to the four-way committee on Palestinian refugees and displaced to carry out expeditious contacts with Egypt and Jordan on this issue.

Approves Budget, To Protest Settlements

TA0309163094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] At its weekly meeting, the Palestinian [National] Authority [PNA] approved the budget for its ministries which it will present at a meeting of donor states in Paris in several days. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the PNA refused to give budget figures. Muhammad al-Nashashibi, the official in charge of the finance portfolio, updated his colleagues on his meeting with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat yesterday.

The PNA also decided to protest to the United Nations about what it called the expansion of settlements around Jerusalem and the division of the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron.

PNA's Quray' on Donor Aid, Budget Deficit

NC0709063094 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Telephone interview with Ahmad Quray', "minister of economy" in the Palestinian National Authority, in Gaza, by Shihatah Abu-al-Majd, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Abu-al-Majd] The meetings of the donor states to provide aid to the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] will open in Paris today. With us now on the line from Gaza is Ahmad Quray', a PNA member and minister of economy. Good morning and welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Quray'] Thank you.

[Abu-al-Majd] These meetings come at an important time for the PNA; this is the era of reconstruction and development for you. Faced with limited financial resources, increasing demands by the Palestinian people, and a desire to upgrade living standards, how could the PNA meet these demands and obtain the support of the donor states, as they promised?

[Quray'] The cooperation between the donor states and the PNA is starting to take a reasonable course. If it is

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followed up and its demands are met this mechanism will soon begin to pay off and produce a series of events and real projects to benefit the Palestinian people. We have inherited a fragile, ruined economic situation that requires a quick remedy and constant support. At the next meeting we will present various projects, exceeding 120, worth around $167 million. We will also present the PNA's civilian and security budget, that is, the Police Force and the Palestinian Civil Administration. These are the most important topics to be discussed.

[Abu-al-Majd] Do you expect a prompt response from the donor states to your budget demands?

[Quray'] In the past two days we have held lengthy talks with a World Bank delegation headed by its vice president and some of his aides. I believe the atmosphere was extremely positive and that some sort of understanding exists. I believe it will create the desired benefits. We discussed all these issues, including the budget deficit, the projects and the need to start implementing them, and the requirements of early empowerment. We found that the World Bank understood these issues. One thing remains for us to do, that is, to promote these projects with the donor states during the coming meeting. Each country will pick up a project that suits its policies, which will ultimately provide support for our people.

[Abu-al-Majd] How much is the budget for these projects? What is the PNA budget? And what are the burdens of early empowerment?

[Quray'] The budget deficit until the end of the year will run to approximately $122 million. This is the budget deficit only. Then we have a series of projects, which we treated as an urgent aid program, that will come to approximately $167 million.

[Abu-al-Majd] Are there any projects that are being implemented or will be implemented soon so that the Palestinian citizen may feel that peace reflects positively on him?

[Quray'] As for the issue of the budget and deficit, the implementation of the agreement that we signed in Washington has begun. The Palestinian Administration's requirements are being met.

As for the projects, I believe that in October the Gaza Strip and West Bank will witness the construction of several important projects: roads, water, sewage systems, and electricity.

[Abu-al-Majd] What is the current situation between you and the Arab countries and could this be used as a basis for cooperation and to provide support for the Palestinian people that would serve the interests of the two sides?

[Quray'] I am not a dreamer but I hope our relations with the Arab brothers will be different from our relations with the other donor countries. We also hope that we will have bilateral relations and strong cooperation in the field of projects, assistance, and others. No doubt our Arab brothers, including Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Qatar, are contributing within the context of the donor states. We hope that our relations with the Arab countries will be direct and not through the World Bank or within the framework of the donor states. But we are pleased that they are helping us even as members of the international bodies.

[Abu-al-Majd] We sense some optimism in what you say. Is it based on clear-cut grounds and promises?

[Quray'] I am optimistic by nature. We have the Palestinian authority and the PLO in the homeland. There are difficulties. But we know how to confront them. Our people are vibrant, competent, and experienced and they are qualified to face every challenge and every difficulty. Our people confronted the occupation and long endured that occupation. The stage of construction has started. Our people have the determination, the will, and the efficiency. The atmosphere with the donor states gives rise to optimism.

[Abu-al-Majd] What is the nature of your relations with Egypt now that peace is prevailing in the region?

[Quray'] Egypt has always supported the Palestinian national struggle, be it bilaterally, on the Arab level, or on the international level. Egypt has sponsored our march in this process and we are indebted to Egypt, its president, Government, and people. The Egyptian people will continue to support and help the Palestinian people and their struggle.

[Abu-al-Majd] Thank you.

[Quray'] You are welcome.

'Arafat Briefs World Bank Delegation on Economics

JN0709124194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0730 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat met with a World Bank delegation led by Bank Vice President (Toch Kleiser) yesterday in preparation for the donor countries' meeting in Paris tomorrow, Thursday.

During the meeting, his excellency the president briefed the delegation on the problems and obstacles faced by the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], which stem from the nonfullfilment of the countries financial commitments to build the infrastructure of the Palestinian economy and to remedy to the deficit in the PNA's budget.

The head of the World Bank delegation said after the meeting that an agreement between the PNA and the World Bank will be signed today on the sum of $30 million, out of an overall sum of $180 million, to cover important development projects in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

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Mahmud 'Abbas Welcomes Morocco Opening of Offices

JN0309135994 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], head of the PLO Foreign Relations Department, said today the PLO welcomes Morocco's decision to open two liaison offices in Gaza and Tel Aviv.

Abu-Mazin said the Moroccan decision supports the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] and recognizes the Palestinian national entity, saying that the PNA is a nucleus of this entity's independent Palestinian state. [passage omitted]

Al-Qidrah, Sha'th Convey 'Arafat Message to Bhutto

JN0609174194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Pakistani Prime Minister Mrs. Benazir Bhutto has received a personal message from President Yasir 'Arafat. Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the [Palestinian] National Authority, and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Palestine ambassador in Cairo, conveyed the message to Mrs. Bhutto when she received them at her residence at the Semiramis Hotel in Cairo today. She reviewed with them the latest developments in the Palestinian issue, as well as the situation of the Palestinian people in the stage of building the national authority on Palestinian territory.

Mrs. Bhutto reiterated, during the meeting, Pakistan's firm support for the Palestinian people and their struggle until they achieve all their legitimate national rights. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Receives Vatican Envoy in Gaza

JN0509181394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun from Gaza]

[Excerpt] President Yasir 'Arafat received Apostolic Delegate Andre Cordero Lanza, the representative of Pope John Paul II in Jerusalem, at his [Gaza] headquarters today. They discussed the issue of Jerusalem and the Muslim and Christian holy places in Jerusalem, as well as bilateral ties. The president said this was a very important day, and noted the strong ties between the Palestinians and his holiness the pope and the Vatican. President 'Arafat added that he had met the pope several times in the past and hailed the Pope's message last week on the establishment of good ties with the Palestinian National Authority. [passage omitted]

PBC Head Signs Media Agreements in U.S., France

JN0609181194 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, head of the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation [PBC], returned to the homeland last night, along with his deputy Sam'an Khuri, following a two-week visit to the United States and France.

During his visit, Abu-'Ayyash signed several agreements on cooperation between the PBC and several U.S., French, and international media institutions. Most notable of these agreements is the one Abu-'Ayyash signed with (Jaminko), assistant UN secretary general for UNESCO, which stipulates extending $250,000 to the PBC. The other agreements call for cooperation in building studios and providing the necessary equipment for radio and television transmission, as well as cooperation in media and musical exchange and training media and technical cadres in media and radio and television engineering at some U.S. and French universities.

The head of the PBC also signed several agreements with the European Economic Community [EEC], stipulating fulfilling the previous EEC promises, by providing the necessary equipment for radio and television transmission. Abu-'Ayyash said television transmission will begin within the next few weeks, once the necessary equipment arrives.

Police Arrest, Interrogate Islamic Jihad Members

Police Chief Cited

JN0609180694 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Major General Nasr Yusuf, commander of the National Security Forces in Gaza, said in a statement to the Voice of Palestine today that the Palestinian police early this morning arrested a number of the Islamic Jihad members, including Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, a prominent leader of the movement. Maj. Gen. Nasr Yusuf accused the members of the Islamic Jihad Movement of not abiding by the regulations and laws laid down by the National Authority in the Gaza Strip, adding that their interrogation continues.

Maj. Gen. Yusuf noted that a number of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine members are still being questioned.

The Islamic Jihad Movement issued a statement denouncing the arrest of a number of its supporters.

Islamic Jihad Demands Release

JN0609175494 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine has issued a statement on the detention campaign launched

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by the 'Arafatist police against the movement's members and supporters following the heroic operation carried out by the movement's mujahidin on Sunday, 4 September 1994, against enemy troops. In its statement, the movement said that this campaign proves that the job of that police is to protect the security of the occupation and that the independence about which the supporters of self-rule talk is nothing but an illusion.

The movement said that the detention campaign threatens our people's unity and heralds dire consequences that serve nobody but our people's Zionist enemies and their agents.

The statement adds: Strongly condemning and denouncing this suspect campaign against the mujahidin and strugglers, we warn the self-rule authority against harming our militant brothers. We demand their unconditional and immediate release.

In its statement, the movement stressed that it reserves the right to respond to those suspect practices. It said: Islam will remain our course and we will remain committed to the interest of Palestine and the unity of our steadfast Palestinian people.

The statement says: Jihad for the sake of Palestine is a sacred right. It cannot be disowned regardless of the sacrifices that have to be offered and regardless of outside pressures. Any attempt to undermine this right opens the door wide to sedition.

Meanwhile, a responsible source of the Islamic Jihad Movement has stated that if the 'Arafatist authority believes that by those detentions it will be able force the Islamic Jihad to bargain over or negotiate an end to armed struggle, it is absolutely mistaken. This heinous action against dozens of the most immaculate youths of the nation will only dishonor and defame this authority before our people.

'Ashrawi Comments

NC0609200994 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Excerpts] The Palestinian police today rounded up 21 members of the Islamic Jihad, which claimed responsibility for killing an Israeli soldier south of Gaza on the day before yesterday. Israel said that a Palestinian youth who was injured in the attack guided the police to the places of his accomplices.

The Islamic Jihad has vowed to continue fighting against the Hebrew state. Our correspondent Mahir Shalabi reports:

[Begin recording] [Shalabi] The Palestinian police have arrested a number of the Islamic Jihad activists in the Gaza Strip at dawn today, including Shaykh 'Abddalah al-Shami, one of the most prominent figures of this group. According to a Palestinian source, the arrest campaign involved more than 20 persons. A responsible source in the Islamic Jihad stated that his group will not change its clear policy on what it considers to be its right to exercise its right and extricate Zionist roots. [passage omitted] What is your comment, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, general commissioner of the Independent Palestinian Committee on Human Rights?

['Ashrawi] Obviously, the term of reference in such situations has become the [Palestinian-Israeli] agreement and the [Palestinian] compliance with it. In order to maintain its credibility, the [Palestinian] Authority is required to take certain measures to show its compliance with its pledges in this agreement. However, on numerous occasions, these steps or measures will either be misinterpreted by the Palestinian people or may adversely affect the Palestinian People's view of the Palestinian Authority, or may be interpreted as reflecting a political position. In fact, I see this as a dilemma and contradiction that existed from the beginning when this agreement was signed.

[Shalabi] Meanwhile, the situation was normal in the Gaza Strip today. Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat opened a center for training policewomen in Gaza. [end recording]

Police Detain 5 DFLP Members for IDF Shootings

TA0209153294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] The Palestinian security service detained five Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] activists in Gaza on suspicion of shooting at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol in Gaza several days ago.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that four of the detainees were arrested before dawn in their homes in Gaza city and Bayt Lahiyah. The fifth later gave himself up to the Palestinian security service.

The DFLP issued a leaflet in the Gaza Strip calling for the immediate release of the detainees. The leaflet also says the Palestinian police infringe on political freedom and operate like the Israeli occupation forces.

Internal Rivalry Among Palestinians Viewed

TA0209154894 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (SHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 2 Sep 94 pp 6, 7

[Article by Nadav Ha'etzni]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat had a tough week. While Yitzhaq Rabin was trying to push him into fulfilling his promise to fight Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], the PLO leader was involved in a secret effort to curtail the war that has broken out inside his ranks. For many weeks now, the internal rivalry and the chairman's strange methods of leadership have threatened to put an end to the illusion of unity inside the camp. Last Saturday [27

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August] it happened in the village of Bayt Lid in the Tulkarm area. Violence broke out and took a heavy toll: one dead and six injured.

There are many versions of what precisely happened in Bayt Lid, but there is no argument over the basic components and the outcome: members of two of 'Arafat's units—"preventive security" and "the presidential guard"—opened fire at each other, following a dispute over positions of power. The fire that erupted in Bayt Lid threatens to start an all-out war between the various mechanisms set up by 'Arafat in the field and even to endanger his position.

The fact that the conflagration occurred in the Tulkarm area is purely coincidental, because there are similar disputes in Bethlehem, Bi'r Zayt, Nabulus, and other places. The establishment of a town council in Jericho this week was also very distressful from Abu-'Ammar's ['Arafat] point of view. Here, too, as will be explained later on, the chairman was forced to deal with a dangerous conflict that broke out between the police and the Palestinian Authority.

The tension in the Tulkarm area is not new. Violent disputes occurred there between rival Fatah officials on the eve of the establishment of the autonomy, but the rivalry took on a new dimension when the militia bosses, headed by Jibril al-Rujub, arrived from Tunis.

Al-Rujub heads the "preventive security" setup, whose members were involved in the Bayt Lid shooting incident. The dead man, Nidal al-Khuli, a resident of the village of Irtah, was known as a leading al-Rujub activist in the area. By the way, the dead man's brother, Jamil Shihadah, a senior official in 'Arafat's headquarters, is secretary general of the Arab Liberation Front. He returned to the territories recently, after being deported many years ago. The dead man's family ties undoubtedly had a strong impact on the conflagration that broke out.

Back to Jibril al-Rujub. Although he set up his headquarters in Jericho, he is making an enormous effort to seize control over all of Judaea and Samaria, even before the Palestinian Authority assumes official responsibility for the areas. He recruits people for his apparatuses, intervenes in disputes, and turns up at night at sensitive spots with a group of armed youths.

But al-Rujub is not the only player in the field. Aside from his longtime rivals, new elements, who also came with him from Tunis, have recently surfaced. The conflict in the Tulkarm area resulted from the attempt of a new element to secure a foothold in northern Samaria. A Tunisian brigadier general named Basil Abu-al-'Abd began to operate a network similar to that of the al-Rujub camp. He recruited activists, invited himself to villages, began to mediate disputes, and slowly built himself a camp of supporters.

The main problem is that the Tunisian brigadier general, like al- Rujub, had the chairman's blessing. He is a leader of 'Arafat's "presidential guard" and, as far as is known, is in close touch with Abu-Ta'ib, one of the generals who have staked a claim to the PLO crown and al-Rujub's sworn enemy.

Yasir 'Arafat's eastern way of running things was meant to safeguard his rule, but something got screwed up. 'Arafat, as is his habit, set up several parallel security bodies. The rivalry was meant to prevent any single one from gaining too much power. But that system works only as long as the leader is honored; when the respect goes, the trouble starts.

Isma'il tried to force his will and then found that a trilateral coalition—Arshad, 'Urayqat, and al-Rujub—had developed against him. The coalition managed to survive even after al-hajj received backing from 'Arafat and "the high court" in Gaza ruled against Arshad on the water issue. The officer received an order to turn up at the president's office in Gaza, but refused. Al-Rujub's men organized a forced commercial strike in Jericho in solidarity with Arshad. By the way, al-Rujub and 'Urayqat finally caved in, not daring to become involved in a direct confrontation with the chairman. What drove them was only the rivalry with al-Hajj Isma'il.

The story has a strange ending. Arshad was led to 'Arafat under a military guard and was reprimanded as is the custom. He was stripped of his position but was promoted and received the meaningless title of official in charge of the municipalities in his area. The chairman also permitted him to present the dismissal as a transfer from one position to another. His friends helped him organize a big celebration on receiving the new rank and appointment, and then he disappeared somewhere in Janin, the town of his youth. Following the crisis, a new town council with two Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] members was appointed and received much play in the media.

The interesting point in the affair is how it highlights the way things are run. Who is in charge of whom? What is power does the army have over the civil institutions? And, in general, who's the boss? All that is becoming less and less clear.

As part of the endless effort to impose order in the internal PLO mess, 'Arafat made it clear to his close associates this week that he has no intention of opening a front against Hamas. According to one of his cohorts, 'Arafat has reached the conclusion that any confrontation with the Islamic streams might lead to the collapse of the Palestinian armed forces.

Secret reports by Abu-'Ammar point to formidable support for Hamas among Gazans in general and, even worse, among Palestinian soldiers. " 'Arafat knows that if he does what Israel is demanding of him—to detain and hand over 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam—he will bring about a civil war. Moreover, many of his soldiers will desert to the Islamic forces with their arms," a close

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'Arafat aide claims. "The soldiers often say: We came here to fight Israel, not our brethren."

Amid all the upheaval, 'Arafat met this week with Hamas leaders in Gaza. Because of his unwillingness to fight them, he had only one request: "Please, do not attack the Jews from my territory in Gaza and Jericho. If you attack in the West Bank, in Israel, that is fine, only do not make trouble for me here."

Will the PLO chairman manage to do it all: arbitrate between the rival organizations, impose his will on the Palestinian forces, avoid clashing with Hamas, and also continue to receive from Israel the remaining territories and powers? If he does, he will receive more than just a Nobel prize; he will break the world juggling record.

Official Denies 'Conflict' Among Security Forces

MM0609115094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 3 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih]

[Excerpt] London—A Palestinian security source has said that Major General 'Adil Salih, who announced last Wednesday [31 August] that he had resigned from his post as chief of the presidential security service, does not hold a military rank.

The source, who asked to remain anonymous, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that 'Adil did not resign, but, rather, was suspended as a result of his excesses. And that he was summoned to meet with 'Arafat but refused to go to Gaza, and no one knows where he is.

News agencies had cited Salih, whom they described as chief of the Palestinian presidential security, as saying that the preventive security service had killed one member of his service, namely Nidal Hasan al-Khuli, and wounded six others during what he termed a massacre in Bayt Walid village in the Tulkarm area in the north of the West Bank, following which Salih announced his resignation as head of the presidential service.

Palestinian parties described the Bayt Walid village incident, which occurred last Saturday [27 August], as the beginning of a conflict among the various Palestinian security services.

But Jibril al-Rujub, chief of the preventive security service in Jericho and the West Bank, who is in charge of the al-Khuli case, has denied the existence of any conflict among security services. He said that "reports of the existence of a conflict among national services are untrue." He added: "We in the preventive security service are not in conflict with anyone in the national movement camp. Out battle is with our enemies and the enemies of our people."

Asked what he meant by "our enemies," al-Rujub told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "The Israelis and the enemies of our people's interests who are still dreaming of the era of custodianship over our people."

Al-Rujub said that the youth who was killed during the clashes in Bayt Walid "was one of the preventive security service' cadres. He was killed by the bullets of the preventive security. The service has taken all legal measures to judge the individuals who violated the law and used weapons."

He said that "all those who were carrying arms during the incident are now in prison in Jericho in the custody of the military prosecution department. We will work to bring the guilty ones to trial." [passage omitted]

Abu-Mazin To Return to Self-Rule Areas 'Temporarily'

MM0609130094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Ali al-Salih: "Abu-Mazin Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: My Return to Homeland's Territory Temporary"]

[Excerpts] London, Tunis, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Having turned down Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's offer to accompany him on his first return journey to Gaza and Jericho, Mahmud 'Abbas (Abu-Mazin), architect of the Oslo accord and member of the PLO Executive Committee, has recently decided to return temporarily to the self-rule areas.

Abu-Mazin stressed that his return to "the homeland's territory will be temporary." According to him, the reason is that "I still have work abroad, and I have no intention of taking a job in the National Authority." [passage omitted]

Asked about his view of what has been achieved so far on the road to peace between the PLO and Israel, he said that "what has been achieved is little, and we still have ahead of us a long road of negotiations, whether those concerning the other powers in the West Bank, the elections, and the refugees, or those concerning the six issues of the final phase, all of which need efforts to complete the Palestinian formula—the formula to which every Palestinian aspires, namely a Palestinian independence that would later be part of a confederation with Jordan."

Asked whether he is going to meet with Israeli officials during his visit, he said that "I will not have any meetings with Israeli officials, because I have no capacity at present. And if you mean the chairmanship of the negotiations committee, I have relinquished it, and it is now assumed by a Palestinian authority member."

Partial Commercial Strike Staged in West Bank

TA0609195394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] In Judaea and Samaria today, a complete commercial strike was staged only in Bethlehem and Hebron,

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while in East Jerusalem, the commercial strike was partial. This followed an agreement between the Islamic Jihad organization and Fatah. Our correspondent Dani Zaqen notes that at the beginning of the intifadah the Islamic Jihad declared 6 September as Intifadah Day and called for a strike on that day. In contacts held between Fatah and the Islamic Jihad in recent weeks it was decided to cancel the strike, and yesterday the Islamic Jihad published an announcement to that effect in the East Jerusalem press. Merchants tried to open shops in all West Bank towns, but in Bethlehem and Hebron young Islamic Jihad activists forced them to shut down.

AL-NAHAR Not To Adopt 'Pro-Jordanian' Stands

TA0309122294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] AL-NAHAR will be publish again in the territories next week. Jibril al-Rujub, head of the Palestinian security service in Jericho, told our correspondent that the newspaper's management has completed all the legal arrangements demanded by the Palestinian Authority, and the paper can now be reissued. Our correspondent notes that the newspaper's editor and owner, 'Uthman al-Hallaq, made a commitment not to diverge from the PLO's nationalist line and to avoid adopting pro-Jordanian stands, as the newspaper did in the past.

'Arafat Takes Away Officials' Car Privileges

JN0609080394 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Sep 94 pp 24, 21

[Report by Riyad Mansur]

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], has decided to take away the cars of three PLO Executive Committee members who reside in Jordan, because of their opposition to the Oslo and Cairo agreements and to 'Arafat's policies. These three members are 'Abd-al-Rahim Malluh, member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which is led by George Habash; Taysir Khalid, member of the Political Bureau of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which is led by Nayif Hawatimah; and Mahmud Isma'il, member of the Political Bureau of the Arab Liberation Front.

'Arafat's decision will go into effect as of this morning. The PLO Executive Committee members will hand over their cars to the Palestinian Embassy.

It is worth noting that the cars given to these members are not owned by the PLO but are rented from car rental offices. The Palestinian National Fund used to pay for the rental of these cars.

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Algeria

Presidency Statement on Dialogue, Madani Letters

LD0609213694 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] The presidency informed the public about the proceedings of the third stage of the national dialogue in a communique released today. The presidency's communique contains great details on the dialogue meetings and discussion between the state president and the representatives of the five parties participating in the dialogue, as well as clarifications on the contacts between representatives of the government and the leadership of the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] and how they were initiated, and on the two messages which [FIS leader] Mr. Abassi Madani has sent to the state president, and also on the measures that could be taken to calm the situation and restore security and safety to the citizens and the homeland.

Yesterday's meeting was opened by an initial statement by President Liamine Zeroual which was published by the national information media, in which he said in particular: I would like to explain the situation which we all find ourselves in, the state and the political parties, those present and those absent from the dialogue. Violence prevails in our country while we are unanimous on the need for a halt to it and we should work together to put an end to it.

The transitional period, in the view of all of us, is considered significant. You are all invited to contribute to its functioning in the widest form possible. Elections should constitute the outcome of this transitional period. You are all invited to fix their date.

The head of state added that the dialogue has a national dimension in regard to its framework which prescribes respect for the constitution and the laws and rejection of violence.

After stressing the transparency of the course of the dialogue, the state president announced that the Algerian people will be the witness and the beneficiary of the constructive results awaited.

On 5 September, the presidency's communique says, meetings were held which enabled the discussion of a number of issues, the first of which was the receipt of two letters from Mr. Abassi Madani. These received an in-depth discussion.

The communique explains that Mr. Abassi Madani had sent a letter to the state president and the political parties taking part in the dialogue, dated 23 August. The state president declared that this letter was the initiative of the dissolved party and was not preceded by any contact or direct or indirect effort as some sources claim.

The state president received this letter on 25 August. On the following day, government representatives met with Mr. Abassi Madani in Blida and asked him for clarifications after which he sent another letter to the president.

President Liamine Zeroual yesterday handed over copies of the two letters to the five parties that participated in the dialogue on 29 August. On 30 August, government representatives for the second time met with the leadership of the dissolved Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]—headed by Mr. Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj—in Blida to discuss the two letters which Mr. Abassi Madani sent to the state president and the five parties.

A third meeting between government representatives and the leaders and officials of the dissolved party took place in Blida. After completing the presidency's statement, we will present the contents of the two letters which Abassi Madani sent to the state president.

The five parties considered Abassi Madani's letter on 23 August to be a positive initiative which contained proposals acceptable for discussion. The five parties saw that Abassi Madani's effort was proof that the dissolved party can participate in finding a solution to the crisis.

For his part, the state president considered that the two letters contained new elements which deserved to be studied and were a positive factor because the prevailing tragic state of the country is a complicated issue. The state president also announced that he is awaiting clarifications from the leadership of the dissolved FIS party, and then he will begin gradually to take procedures that will allow the dissolved party's leadership to find the ways and means to put a stop to the killing of Algerians and which will allow us all to move the country toward a state of normality.

Mr. Liamine Zeroual, the state president, said: The leadership of the dissolved party has made a first step and we appreciate its nature. The state has proved that it effectively encouraged the search for a political solution and expected an effort which is in line with the aspirations of the whole Algerian nation. The state president stressed that contacts with the prisoners in Blida will continue.

The second issue, which was the subject of long discussion and study, was the necessary conditions for making the dialogue successful. The five parties said that these conditions were contained in the statement of 4 January 1994 and were 14 points. The state president said that eight out of the 14 points have been complied with. These are, in particular, ending the implementation of death sentences, assuring the liberties and rights of citizens, eliminating all obstacles to the practice of political activities, and guaranteeing freedom of the press. He said that security centers are considered as semi-closed. He also asked for clarifications from the parties on a number of points.

As for the measures to restore calm, which were requested by the five parties, the state president pointed out that the measures which are liable to calm the

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situation must go hand in hand with the developments of the security situation in the country. After stressing the state's concern for the security situation, he called on the invited parties to demand an end to the blind violence which reigns in Algeria and to launch an awareness campaign to explain that this violence is in complete contradiction to Islam.

The third issue discussed by the presidency of the state and the five parties in their 5 September sessions was the question of the invited parties which are absent from the dialogue. The state president reiterated the will to continue efforts to convince the parties which are absent to participate in the dialogue. In this context, he said that democracy is fundamentally based on discussion and maturity of ideas, and he rejected all allegations and prejudgements made about the course of the dialogue. The state president said: I say to the parties which are absent that they should be assured that their reservations and doubts have no justification.

The fourth issue put forward by the five parties was the question of the movement of people and property between Algeria and Morocco following the unilateral decision of Morocco to impose an entry visa for Algerian nationals wishing to enter Morocco. The state president referred to the harassments which Algerian nationals were subjected to in Morocco and the measures taken by Algeria. He stressed at the same time that Algeria is loyal to its Maghreban commitments and to the policy of good neighborliness.

Today the Algerian press agency APS published the text of the two letters sent by Mr. Abassi Madani, leader of the dissolved FIS, to President Liamine Zeroual. Here we present to you the plan Mr. Abassi Madani proposes for solving the crisis.

The plan, according to the letter of the dissolved FIS, contains three paragraphs dealing with general principles, the proposed solution, and the practical measures to arrive at the actual terms.

The text of the two letters with Nabila Khrefia:

[Khrefia] First: The General Principles:

A. The Algerian people holds sovereignty after God in that it is a free people, is offering the proposed solution for approval. [as heard] It has the right to reject it or accept it so as the solution will be according to its will and legitimate choice so as to put an end to the imposed solutions whether from within or from without.

B. Allowing the Algerian people to practice its right to choose its leadership and its officials at levels of the state and to withdraw its confidence in them if they have failed in discharging their duties and to choose the reform examples for its affairs and its regimes and to discard all artificial guardianship and false agency.

C. Algerians alone are responsible for finding solutions to their problems and their crises, and foreigners have no right to interfere in the affairs of our country to withdraw the freedom of decision from us as France and others have done recently.

D. To abide by party pluralism to allow free opinion and encourage diversity of programs and forms of interpretation, and freedom of initiative and the acceptance of the change of government through elections which mobilize the entire nation's capabilities and potentials which can be defined whenever necessary without any difficulty or effort. Thus the blood of the nation will be spared, its future generations will be saved the burden of wars, stability will be established all over the country, and safety will be granted to all its sons.

E. The removal of the people's national army from the field of political struggle, as it is not appropriate for it to be involved in political issues as is the case with modern armies, and the need to maintain and develop its military potential so that it is capable of defending the country and Islam.

F. Legally rehabilitating the FIS.

G. The Algerian people is Muslim in accordance with the saying: Islam is a religion and state. The Algerian state can only be an Islamic state.

H. The Constitution is only applicable in the way provided for in the Constitution itself in accordance with Articles 163, 164, 165, 166, and 167.

Second: The Political Solution. In loyalty to the history of our nation and our upright martyrs and in rehabilitation of our true religion as it was in the ages of the Islamic state, mission, and civilization, and in loyalty to the liberation revolution of 1 November 1954, the head of state declares that he is committed to what was stated in the communique of 1 November 1954, namely that the Algerian state is a republic based on Islamic principles which shall come into effect after the Algerian people have approved this in a free referendum the date of which is to be decided as soon as possible.

Third: The Measures Which Must Be Taken Immediately

A. Lifting all extraordinary states and the state of emergency.

B. Issuing a general amnesty for all prisoners, detainees, and internees and ending all judicial and security prosecutions.

C. Halting all raids and search and arrest campaigns.

D. Recalling the army and the intervention forces back to the barracks and leaving no more security forces than necessary for ordinary life.

E. Appointing a committee with constituent powers to form a neutral government which will be assigned to organize the elections and the plebiscite and the running

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of the country's affairs at that period until the election of the legitimate authority and its assumption of its powers within the defined period.

Mr. Abassi Madani pointed out, in his second letter dated 26 August 1994, that he might refuse to discuss his first letter as long as he was kept in prison. He added: It is necessary for us to be outside the prison so that a meeting can be arranged with the representatives of the FIS, whether they were inside or outside and to come out with a number of points that would be for the good of the country and the faithful.

More on Madani Letters

LD0609202894 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] The third session of the national dialogue was largely devoted to [Islamic Salvation Front leader] Abassi Madani's two letters. Yama Laazib:

[Laazib] The contents of the two letters from Abassi Madani constitute—as Abassi Madani wrote himself—a plan for national reconciliation as conceived by the banned Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]. Here are the details of this plan which is divided into three parts:

The first part defines general principles, according to which the sovereign people will designate, through elections, its representatives who, in turn, will be responsible before the people. Abassi Madani says in this part that the banned FIS will respect the principles of a multiparty system, freedom of speech, free market economy, and alternation of power through elections.

Abassi Madani also says that Islam is the religion of the state, and that the ANP—the National Popular Army—should withdraw from politics to devote itself to the sole task of protecting the country.

Finally, regarding the February 1989 constitution, only existing articles can be modified.

On the political front, the FIS thinks that it should be legally rehabilitated. Concerning the Algerian state, Abassi Madani says that its republican character was already embodied in the 1 November 1954 appeal and that its Islamic principle should be deepened through referendum.

The practical measures that the state should take to calm the situation, according to Abassi Madani, are: the lifting of the state of emergency, a general amnesty, and finally the designation of a sovereign constitutive commission to oversee the formation of a government that would be responsible for the preparation of elections. This government would last until the election of a legitimate authority.

If this plan is accepted, Abassi Madani stressed, he would be ready to call all the factions to observe a truce throughout all the national territory.

Finally, in his second letter, Abassi Madani asked for his release and for the release of his companions.

Political Leaders Comment on Dialogue Progress

LD0609161494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Passages within quotation marks are recorded]

[Excerpt] [Announcer] With regard to the parties' views in this new round of dialogue, here is the leader of the Hamas [Islamic Society Movement] who gives his opinion.

[Cheikh Mafoud Nahnah] [passage omitted] "A point I would like to make is related to a number of measures concerning the conditions for making the dialogue successful. At the forefront of these are these abuses which take place now and then, either as reactions or a consequence of anger or the like. We dealt with this issue in some detail and pledges were made by the regime that it will not be possible for abuses to take place in the future. I would like to add that everyone demands the dialogue and embraces it in the fullest meaning of the word. [passage omitted]"

[Announcer] Here is now the opinion of Khaled Bensmail, the representative of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, who talks about the prominent points dealt with by the round of dialogue.

[Bensmail] "We talked at the beginning about the letter which [detained Islamic Salvation Front leader] Mr. Abassi Madani sent to the state president, and we gave our party's view on this letter. We also talked about the measures aimed at calming the political atmosphere. These are the points we talked about.

[Unidentified correspondent] "When did you decide to meet again?

[Bensmail] "On 20 September. In this period, we will see if there is perhaps anything new that would contribute more to the dialogue so that the latter progresses. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] "Is it possible to know anything about the veracity of Abassi Madani's letter?

[Cheikh Abdallah Djaballah, Ennahda leader] "It is true that the letter exists and contacts are still continuing and recommendations have taken place on this issue and the need to continue contacts so as to convince parties to attend the national dialogue.

[Correspondent] "Is it possible to know the content of this letter?

[Djaballah] "In general, the letter expressed a readiness to contribute to the dialogue and to resolving the crisis in exchange for a number of measures and conditions. We did not focus on the discussion of the content but we considered the existence of a letter as a first positive step indicating a principled readiness for a political solution.

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[Correspondent] "Have you agreed with the regime to meet again?

[Djaballah] "We have agreed in principle to meet on 20 September, and if positive elements occur, the meeting could be brought forward."

[Announcer] The Algerian Renewal Party leader [Noureddine Boukrouh] talked about the existence of indications that give rise to optimism.

[Boukrouh] "This is the third round and we have spent dozens of hours in meetings since the first round. But the crisis is dangerous and difficult, and the Algerian people should remember that the solutions for this crisis will not come in a day or a week. One has to be patient and we are serious about finding a solution. There are indications that make us optimistic but we cannot say the final solution has been found, and dialogue continues.

[Correspondent] "What are these indications?

[Boukrouh] "The reaction of the main parties to the Algerian crisis. And the cycle of violence has to end. This is the main obstacle. There are exchanges of views among all the sides, therefore, there are some preliminary indications and, God willing, we will continue the efforts till we achieve the final solution."

[Announcer] For his part, National Liberation Front Secretary General Abdelhamid Mehri talked about the outcome of the dialogue and about his impression regarding Abassi Madani's letter.

[Mehri] "We are still discussing the conditions needed to make the dialogue successful. In our view, the crisis the country is experiencing cannot be resolved unless all active political forces meet. We have emphasized this point and we are still maintaining our stance that the dialogue of some without the attendance of others will not resolve any problem. We have recorded that there was a letter from Cheikh Abassi Madani addressed to the state president and to the parties holding this dialogue. We think that its content is positive. We are giving a chance to the efforts that could lead to practical results from this letter.

"I hope we succeed in gathering all the forces and if the wind blows in a direction that does not suit the sailor [Arabic proverb] we will see then what to do."

FFS Official Explains Boycott of Dialogue

LD0409155094 Algiers Radio Algiers in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Excerpts] [Announcer] A third meeting will be held tomorrow between the Presidency and the parties taking part in the dialogue. This follows the two meetings held on 21 and 24 August during which the fundamental principles governing the dialogue were defined. [passage omitted]

Regarding contacts between some political forces which have not taken part in the dialogue, press reports have indicated that Said Khelil, acting secretary general of the Socialist Forces Front [FFS], has met with the two prominent figures [of the Islamic Salvation Front—FIS] who were released [in February], namely Abdelkader Boukhakhmam and Ali Djeddi. These contacts and their results will undoubtedly constitute a topic of discussion at tomorrow's meeting between the Presidency and the parties taking part in the dialogue since this meeting will be devoted, as some party leaders have said, to finding ways to ensure the success of the dialogue. The political forces were invited to take part in the dialogue to offer their contribution with a view to stopping the bloodshed and paving the way for solutions that would end the crisis.

On the eve of the resumption of the national dialogue, the radio conducted a telephone interview with Mr Said Khelil, acting secretary general of FFS. He was first asked whether the FFS is taking part in tomorrow's meeting:

[Begin Khelil recording] We will not attend because there is nothing new compared to the two previous meetings. Our position has not changed but we are still in touch with the Presidency and the parties in an attempt to bridge the gap and find a position which might bring us closer. [end recording]

[Announcer] We also asked Said Khelil about the points of disagreement existing between the FFS and the authorities.

[Begin recording] [Khelil] The main point concerns the framework of the dialogue. The authorities have defined this framework as being the so-called constitution, the laws, and the fundamental principles. We did not take part in the definition of this framework. Let us not forget that the current authorities have taken measures on the ground, in the political arena, and in the security, political, and economic fields. Therefore we wonder what area is left to us as a party to enter this process. However, we are still in touch and we continue to talk in order to get closer. As a party we have to try to maintain a free strategy. Do you understand? This does not prevent me from holding talks outside the dialogue.

[Announcer] Proceeding from this, does it mean that the FFS does not believe that the strategy currently adopted by the authorities to deal with the crisis will lead to the desired results?

[Khelil] I am not entitled to pass judgment. Everyone has a position. They might be sincere and they might mean well but as far as we are concerned, this methodology will not succeed. There are shortcomings.

[Announcer] Why do you think that this methodology will not lead to the desired results?

[Khelil] Look, the fact is that from the very beginning of the dialogue—this is the third phase—they have invited

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the parties to join a process in which they are not involved [as heard]. Do not forget that only one side is ruling; and we realize that this side is in full control of this dialogue, be it in its preparation or its objectives because when you prepare you are also laying the ground for the objectives you want to achieve. This is not on. There are institutions in this transitional period and we ask ourselves many questions. So long as I do not have guarantees, and if I enter the dialogue and if I back a bad solution, this means that I have taken part in a dialogue which has not brought about any result. [end recording]

Presidency Responds to RCD Statement on Meeting

LD0609022394 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] After the 4 September meeting between representatives of the presidency and a delegation from the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD] and after the statement issued by the RCD, the Presidency has replied in a statement on the proceedings of that meeting. Sabria Thilis reports on the contents of this reply:

[Thilis] A delegation from the RCD was received on 4 September by the representatives of the Presidency within the framework of ongoing contacts with the parties still absent from the national dialogue. This contact was an opportunity to reject strongly the claims and intentions of the statement issued by the RCD on 3 September, contributing to a clearing of the political atmosphere in our country.

Representatives of the Presidency stated that the transparency which is prevailing and will prevail in the national dialogue will allow the Algerian people to follow this dialogue closely and to pass judgment on the reality and position of each party.

During this meeting the representatives of the presidency reaffirmed that there is nothing in the principles, the method, and objectives of the national dialogue that will prevent any political party from defending its viewpoints and its peceptions at the dialogue table as long as the framework and the declared constants were respected. They also reminded the representatives of the RCD of their position demanding a break from the past and the need to define the blueprint for a desired society and for the current dialogue.

The representatives of the Presidency offered the following replies: Regarding the break from the past, the matter concerns an option which has been declared by the head of state since the beginning of the transitional period. It is an option on which the authority is working with all deliberation. In dealing with the question of a break with the past, irrespective of political persuasion, the authorities have recently conducted a tangible cleansing. This is also being done through an effective upgrading of the necessary economic reforms for the country and a genuine defense of constitutional legitimacy, republicanism, and democracy within the context of respecting the values and constants of our people, and also through the restoration of civil security and safety for the citizens. These are the important and, at the same time, urgent objectives which epitomize the genuine break from the past.

RCD Criticizes Presidency's Statement

LD0609021294 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Report by Sabria Thilis]

[Text] In its statement the Rally for Culture and Democracy [RCD] considered the comments of the representatives of the Presidency as directed toward the party's statement published on 3 September. According to the RCD, the principles of genuine democracy were not stressed in the general direction of opening any serious dialogue. A break from the regime as the sole authority is required, but this breaking away is rendered ineffective through the daily practice of block politics and [words indistinct]. [sentence as heard]

Regarding the course of the dialogue, the RCD rejects its ineffective handling by the regime which prefers maneuvers and secret political machinations within the framework of the parallel contacts, unknown to the parties invited to the dialogue.

The RCD would like to recall that the dispute with the authorities about the crisis, in form and substance, is aimed at shortening the transitional period and holding elections which will permit the resolution of the problems which have divided Algeria. If that indeed were the intention of the authorities, we do not understand their adamant demand for dialogue about a process that basically falls within their administrative competence.

Egypt

Mubarak, Gore Hold News Conference After Talks

NC0609112594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1040 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has stated that he and U.S. Vice President Al Gore discussed several issues that concern both sides, including expanding economic cooperation, boosting U.S. investments in Egypt, removing the obstacles hindering bilateral trade exchange, and the two sides' joint efforts to achieve peace and prosperity in the Middle East.

At a news conference following his meeting with Gore, the president said: We are still committed to improving the quality of life of our citizens, increasing productivity, and creating job opportunities. He noted that the two sides have identical views.

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Speaking at the beginning of the news conference, President Mubarak said: I am glad to welcome the U.S. vice president to Cairo at this historic time. His insistence on coming this distance, in spite of his recent surgery, and his active role in the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] are highly appreciated by all participants.

The president added that the speech the U.S. vice president delivered to the conference was highly articulate, objective, and perceptive. It focused on the essence of the topic and was very wise and fair. Gore undoubtedly made a very good impression and used a very adequate approach to express his country's policy, the president said.

In his statement, the president went on: I met the vice president several years ago. I have always seen him as a statesman with a clear vision. He is cultured, has a firm sense of commitment, and is a man of words and deeds.

The president added: During his visit, we had the chance to review bilateral ties in addition to regional and world issues. As you know, we attach great importance to that cooperation, which is the cornerstone of our relationship for the sake of peace and prosperity.

Mubarak added: When we launched our economic reform program, the United States, under President Clinton's leadership, was among the first supporters. We are still committed to this ambitious reform program and believe that it is the best alternative through which we can improve the standards of living of all our citizens, Mubarak said. He affirmed that the state wants to provide more job opportunities for the youth and enhance productivity. That is why we are going ahead with reform with every ambition and full determination, he stressed.

Mubarak added: I discussed with the U.S. vice president several ideas that further strengthen our economic relations. I am glad to say that our views were identical on many points. We agreed to set up a new joint committee for economic development, which will further enhance our cooperation in science and technology, expand the scope of trade exchange, and encourage contacts between the private sectors in both countries.

President Mubarak said: Businessmen in both countries are called upon to play an active role and support officials in their efforts to explore economic and trade opportunities and remove existing hurdles. He said: I consider the results of our discussions to be positive and useful and this will enable us to increase and continue our cooperation through the existing establishments so that they may be more stable. He went on to say that in this sense this initiative is new and an important addition to our achievements. I have asked the U.S. vice president to convey our greetings to the U.S. President and people.

Al Gore then made a speech in which he said: President Mubarak and I discussed a number of important issues relating to bilateral ties. I began my talks with President Mubarak today by thanking him for the hospitality accorded us during this visit, a hospitality that much impressed all the delegations participating in this conference. On the personal level, I would like to say that President Mubarak and I have been friends for several years. President Mubarak, he said, is in my family considered to be the most popular leader in the world, because he was so kind as to show his sympathy for my son, who was injured several years ago. From my visit to Egypt, I have a good impression about the determination to build a society seeking prosperity, stability, and peace.

Al Gore went on to say that Egypt and the United States are partners in the peace process in the region. When necessary, both countries take stands to resist aggression and safeguard peace. Four years ago, Egypt stood by us as a member in the alliance that rejected the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Today, Egypt is participating in peace-keeping missions under the UN umbrella in Rwanda, Bosnia, and Somalia.

Al Gore said: The United States shares President Mubarak's view that Egypt is actively working to achieve peace in Egypt, the region, and around the world. He noted that President Clinton has said on various occasions that he holds President Mubarak in high esteem and appreciation, considers him a friend, and seeks his wise council. Al Gore expressed his deep appreciation for the friendship that links him to President Mubarak and for his wisdom. He stressed that the United States greatly appreciates President Mubarak's leadership and Egypt and their role in advancing the peace process on numerous occasions, as everyone knows. He stressed that President Mubarak played an important, crucial, and decisive role in boosting the current peace process until it achieved the progress we can see, not to mention his efforts during this year toward this goal. He praised the efforts made by Egypt and President Mubarak in charting and implementing a practical program on family planning, noting the great efforts Egypt made to organize the ICPD currently being held in Cairo.

Responding to a question on the U.S. stance at the ICPD currently being held in Cairo, Al Gore expressed his belief that the controversy on the conference before it opened has now been placed in proper perspective after delegations arrived in Cairo from all parts of the world to attend the conference, and after the real discussions began. He said that the conference provided an opportunity for everyone to see that the furor over certain matters dealt with less than one percent of the issues proposed for discussion.

Asked about other differences over terms and formulas, Al Gore said that the Vatican plays an active and constructive role in numerous fields but it did not sign the document released by the Population Conference that convened in Mexico 10 years ago nor the document of the Population Conference that convened in Bucharest 20 years ago, and it will not sign the Cairo document

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no matter what happens. He noted that there is a general consensus on President Mubarak's leadership hosting this conference, which is one of the reasons for its success. He said that regarding the formulation of the final document of the conference, it will be discussed by the delegations. He expressed his belief that the document will receive considerable consensus.

In reply to a question on the steps that Washington has taken to encourage U.S. investment in Egypt and the latter's steps in this respect, Al Gore said: We in Washington very much encourage U.S. investment in Egypt, which is growing at a satisfactory rate. He noted that the rate of these investments is growing steadily. He said the reason for this is President Mubarak's success in reducing the inflation rate and the budget deficit and the progress made in the privatization process. He noted that these steps constitute a story of economic success that is greatly attracting investment. He said: We will play our role in encouraging investment, particularly in establishing an economic partnership in the two countries. He said that this partnership will be active and strong and will help both countries to address all aspects of economic relations, and noted that he will return to Cairo soon to complete consultations on this issue.

Al Gore said: I offer sincere congratulations to President Mubarak and the Egyptian people for President Mubarak's winning the UN Population Prize for 1994. He said that this prize and Egypt's hosting of the ICPD demonstrate President Mubarak's leadership and the Egyptian people's attitude toward this issue, which is extremely important to the future of mankind. He added that the Egyptian people have every right to be proud of the great, kind, and, at the same time, difficult mission that they have undertaken on behalf of the international community in hosting the ICPD in Cairo this week.

Al Gore said that the talks he held with President Mubarak dealt with ways that may enable the United States and Egypt to continue furthering the existing close and strong relations within the bilateral framework. He noted that during the talks they agreed that the progress that has been achieved in the peace process in the Middle East has created a climate of hope in the region. He said that they also agreed that economic development and not only military force will increasingly become the factor that will determine national security. He noted that both parties also agreed that the touchstone for economic development is the amount of support that will be given to the private sector, noting that the time has come to broaden the economic dialogue between the United States and Egypt.

Al Gore also pointed out that President Mubarak agreed with him to start a new partnership on economic growth and development and that the mechanism of this partnership that functions within the framework of the current U.S. aid are clearly outlined in the statement that we released today. He said that President Bill Clinton and President Mubarak are playing a major role in broadening the economic dialogue between the two sides, adding: We are looking forward to working with President Mubarak to translate this initiative into reality. He noted that the talks with President Mubarak also touched on the Lockerbie issue and the extent of Libya's compliance with the Security Council resolutions, and the peace talks in the Middle East. He noted that he conveyed to President Mubarak the American people's appreciation for the Egyptian people's role in backing the process of a comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East.

President Mubarak said: I have nothing more to add to what U.S. Vice President Al Gore has said other than to ask you to read the statement we released today.

Asked whether the talks touched on the peace process on the Syrian track and whether the delay in the peace process with Syria may put a kind of pressure on it to accept any solution, even if it were not appropriate for it, President Mubarak said that the issue has nothing to do with pressure, whether from the United States, Egypt, or any other party. He stressed that the issue has to do with faith in peace and in its importance for the prosperity of the peoples. He added that if there is no peace, military expenditure will be high and will affect the peoples' standard of living. He stressed that Syria is convinced to a large extent that peace is greatly important. He said: I believe that despite the fact that progress is being made very slowly, the Syrians are now showing more flexibility; so are the Israelis. He said: I hope that by year's end or after one or two months in the new year at most, both parties will achieve something. The issue has nothing to do with pressure but with faith and conviction.

In reply to a question on progress in eliminating the barriers that impede U.S. investment in Egypt under the GATT agreements, President Mubarak said: We have removed numerous obstacles that stood in the way of cooperation with the U.S. party and in the area of customs, noting that exports and imports between the two countries are now free. He said that there might be some minor restrictions regarding certain national industries that currently need some protection. He noted that Egypt signed the GATT agreement and will honor it. He pointed out that Egypt has encountered certain problems over 40 or 50 years and that we have resolved numerous problems and are working to resolve the rest. He said that certain draft laws will be referred to the People's Assembly in its new session this year, noting that the People's Assembly will debate removing the rest of the obstacles so that export and import will become easier.

Al Gore said that Egypt has entered a reform process and that it is gathering speed and momentum. He noted that the economic partnership between the United States and Egypt will expand cooperation between the two sides. He praised the competence of the Egyptian economic team working with President Mubarak and helping to implement the Egyptian economic policies. He stressed that he

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is very optimistic about the future of Egypt's economy and of economic relations between the two countries.

Mubarak Meets With Pakistani Prime Minister

NC0609154094 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] President Husni Mubarak and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto resumed their talks at a working luncheon the president held in honor of Egypt's guest and her delegation. Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi said the talks between President Mubarak and Mrs. Bhutto dealt with bilateral relations. He said they also discussed in considerable detail the International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD], Egypt's arrangements for the conference, and the role the Islamic states must play to confront some conference' recommendations that may violate values and the Islamic religion.

Dr. Sidqi referred to Mrs. Bhutto's position at the conference, describing it as extremely good. He said Mubarak and Bhutto discussed the importance of promoting cooperation between the two countries as two major Islamic countries. They agreed to further the exchange of visits between senior Pakistani and Egyptian officials, he said. Sidqi explained that the Egyptian and Pakistani delegations are working to remove controversial issues, especially the ones pertaining to values, traditions, and religions.

Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, said Mrs. Bhutto spoke about the opening session, expressing strong admiration for Egypt's efforts to organize the conference, and saying that Egypt is fully qualified for leadership and is a great model of an Islamic state committed to the teaching and values of Islam.

Ukraine's Kuras Meets Mubarak, Comments on Nuclear Arms

NC0709104494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 7 Sep (MENA)—This morning President Husni Mubarak received Ivan Kuras, Ukraine's deputy prime minister for questions of humanitarian policy. The Ukrainian charge d'affaires in Cairo also attended the meeting.

The Ukrainian deputy prime minister said after the meeting that President Mubarak has expressed profound understanding of the cooperation between the two countries, whose relations are of long standing. He said that both countries will endeavor to promote these relations.

He added: I conveyed an official invitation to President Mubarak to visit Ukraine and he promised to do so soon.

To a question about bilateral cooperation during the next stage, the Ukrainian official said that a committee on economic, scientific, and technical cooperation has been formed by the two countries. This committee will hold its first meeting in the Ukrainian capital, he added. Kuras said that Dr. Yusuf Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of international cooperation, will take part in the discussions. He said the committee will outline the trends of cooperation between the two countries. Kuras noted that current cooperation involves the trade, air, and sea spheres.

Asked about the agreement Ukraine reached with Western countries on controlling nuclear weapons, the Ukrainian deputy prime minister said that Ukraine had signed an agreement with Russia and the United States in Moscow concerning the withdrawal of nuclear warheads from Ukraine. We are implementing the agreement and our country is endeavoring to free the entire world from nuclear weapons. Kuras reiterated that his country is against nuclear weapons.

Azerbaijani President Calls On Mubarak

NC0609075594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Sep (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev in the presidential office this morning.

Attending the meeting on the Azeri side were the state minister for internal political affairs, the assistant to the president, and the Azerbaijani ambassador in Cairo.

Mubarak Receives Japanese Foreign Minister

NC0609111294 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 6 Sep (MENA)—Japanese Foreign Minister Yohei Kono was received by President Mubarak at the Presidential Palace in Heliopolis this morning. Speaking afterward, he said the talks dealt with bilateral relations and ways to further develop, expand, and strengthen them.

Kono added that he invited President Mubarak to visit Japan next year. The president had to put off his scheduled visit to Japan this year due to developments in Japan at the time.

Yemeni Foreign Minister Comments After Meeting Mubarak

NC0409172994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1632 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 4 Aug (MENA)—Yemeni Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah said, following a meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, that he conveyed to the president a verbal message from his brother Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih concerning bilateral relations as well as efforts to consolidate Arab solidarity.

Minister Basindwah added that President Mubarak, as usual, was frank with us. We heard his views and we

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believe that today's meeting is an important step toward enhancing Yemeni-Egyptian relations. Yemen and Egypt both look forward to improved inter-Arab relations, the Yemeni foreign minister said.

Asked about current conditions in Yemen, Minister Basindwah said: I believe the situation is stable. Nothing happened in Aden that does not occur in many other countries. Our security forces succeeded in containing the incident that occurred two days ago in Aden.

The Yemeni minister said that those who were detained in the [2 September] incident are being interrogated. Those whose participation in the incident is proven will be tried, he added.

Minister Basindwah said that what happened in Aden should not be interpreted abroad as a sign of instability in Yemen. The incident lasted only a few hours. The entire country is stable. Those who lost the battle will always exaggerate things. The incident in Aden did not involve an attempt to bring down the regime, he stated.

'Abd-al-Malik Sa'id, Yemeni charge d'affaires in Cairo, and Ahmad Luqman, Yemeni permanent delegate to the Arab League, were present at Basindwah's meeting with President Mubarak.

Civil Aviation Agreement Signed With Palestinians

NC0309165894 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1435 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 3 Sep (MENA)—Transport and Communications Minister Sulayman Mutawalli and Palestinian Transport Minister 'Abd- al-'Aziz al-Hajj Ahmad today attended the signing of an agreement for civil aviation cooperation between Egypt and the Palestinian Civil Aviation Authority. This is the first such agreement that the Palestinians have signed.

After the signing ceremony, Mutawalli said that the agreement involves registering Palestinian civilian aircraft and Egyptian assistance in planning aerial supervision and air corridors between Gaza and Jericho. [passage omitted]

Israel's Nuclear Policy, Calls To End Boycott Assailed

NC0609201094 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 3 Sep 94 p 8

["Close Up" column by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "The Boycott or the Nuclear Threat?"]

[Text] Israel is working very hard, and President Clinton's administration is supporting it with all the pressure it has available, to have the Arab countries abolish their boycott of Israel. The argument is that such a measure will create an atmosphere of stability and confidence and help achieve a comprehensive peace in the region.

But at the same time, Israel, supported by the United States, refuses to enter into any arrangements to free the Middle East from weapons of mass destruction before reaching peace agreements with all sides in the region. It is as though the Arab boycott weapon, which has largely lost its effectiveness through many loopholes and agreements, was sharper and more threatening to peace than the mass- destruction weapons, in which Israel has the superiority through its stockpile of nuclear warheads and ballistic missiles that can reach as far as Iran to the east and north Africa to the west.

This flagrant contradiction between the two positions was evident in the talks Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa held during his recent visit to Israel. Musa called on Israel to join the nuclear nonproliferation treaty as a prelude to bringing about a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction. This is an old plan which Egypt has repeatedly proposed on several occasions in the recent years, and it was recently raised in the multilateral talks, when the Working Group on Armament and Regional Security met in Qatar in May to agree on the nonproliferation of certain types of weapon systems, especially in the field of mass destruction.

But while Israel insists on abolishing the Arab boycott before reaching peace, it believes that peace must be achieved before disarmament. Contrary to this, Egypt is demanding that the peace talks go parallel with other aspects that determine the future relations among the region's states, notably the elimination of mass-destruction weapons; this is the original concept of the so-called Madrid formula.

But it is clear that Israel is doing all it can to maintain its unilateral possession of nuclear and missile capability, while the United States, for its part, is preventing the states of the region from obtaining advanced weapons and is imposing strong restrictions and tight control on arms shipments, allowing Israel's superiority in all fields to continue.

It, therefore, becomes the right of the Arab countries not to sign the agreement banning chemical weapons, and the United States loses much of its justification for preventing other countries from obtaining nuclear capabilities.

Contacts With Iraq, Prospects for Reconciliation Viewed

NC0709101794 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 2 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[Text] High-ranking political sources have told AL-SHA'B that Egyptian-Iraqi contacts were conducted over the past two weeks. The same sources emphasized that President Husni Mubarak did receive a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, which aimed at cleaning up Arab relations through an all-out reconciliation.

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The political sources said that the Iraqi initiative was the main reason for President Mubarak's urgent visit to Geneva and his meeting with United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayib Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan and Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al- Salam al-Majali. During the talks they discussed the possibility of launching an Arab initiative to patch up the differences between Iraq and Kuwait. This would be followed by an Arab summit involving all Arab states—those that opposed and those that supported the Iraqi forces' occupation of Kuwait.

The political sources added that President Mubarak's contacts in this regard and subsequent media reports on these contacts have triggered concern in some Arab capitals, especially in Kuwait and Riyadh. These capitals told the Egyptian Government that they will not cooperate on the ongoing contacts. They even voiced their indignation at not being consulted as soon as the contacts started. The sources stressed that pursuing the contacts outside the UN Security Council runs counter to the role of the Council, which is entrusted with implementing the resolutions adopted against Iraq. Kuwait claims that Iraq has not implemented the resolutions.

According to the information, Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Sabah and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia held 13 telephone conversations with President Mubarak during which they tried to impede the mediation efforts. And the United States threatened to cancel the U.S. vice president's visit if the Egyptian attempts to return Iraq to the Arab fold continued.

AL-SHA'B also learned that the Egyptian leadership asked Iraq to immediately recognize Kuwait. This would be followed by a visit to Baghdad by an Arab delegation to obtain Iraqi guarantees concerning reconciliation, including the immediate release of a group of Kuwaitis detained in Baghdad.

The sources said that Egypt seeks to overcome the pressure in cooperation with Morocco, Libya, and Jordan. The reconciliation issue will be raised during the Arab League ministerial council meetings slated to be held in Cairo on 14 September. A ranking Iraqi official is expected to visit Cairo during this period.

But the Egyptian Government is now in a bad position in view of the Kuwaiti intransigence, especially since Iraq has expressed a readiness to respond positively to all the ongoing meditation efforts to achieve Arab reconciliation. Iraq has made successful contacts with important international sides, France, Russia, and China, which have started to show a full response to the efforts aimed at lifting the sanctions on Iraq for the past four years.

The Egyptian leadership found that the only solution to the problem is to go back on the reconciliation initiative and deny all the contacts. But they were indeed conducted. Urgent instructions were issued to the editors in chief of the government-owned newspapers and magazines to deny everything published in this regard in a bid to overcome the deadlock and to please the Gulf states that reject the reconciliation steps. Accordingly, the government-owned media have been denying the reconciliation efforts over the past two days.

Particular elements that reject the inter-Arab reconciliation believe that Iraq's return to the Arab fold and the unity of Arab ranks would obstruct the normalization efforts taking place between some Arab countries and Israel. They will also affect the economic summit that will be held in Morocco on 31 October, a summit that will try to implement Middle East market plans in the region.

Muslim Brotherhood Spokesman Sees Attack on Religions

BR0709115294 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 7 Sep 94 p 15

[Report on telephone interview with Ma'mun al-Hudaiby, spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood, by "m.a." in Cairo; date not given: "Yes to Religious Front Against Secular Conspiracy"]

[Text] Rome—"There is a conspiracy aimed at annihilating all the leading religions. So we say 'yes' to the alliance with the Vatican and all the Churches against the offensive of the atheists and infidels."

This is the clear and explosive essence of the stance held by the Muslim Brotherhood, the leading and the largest of the Egyptian fundamentalist movements. Its members control the most influential trade unions (those of the lawyers, medicines, engineers, and pharmacists) and several university councils, and also manage wide financial activities centered on the mosques and medical, social, and cultural centers. But although the Egyptian regime tolerates their activities, it does not recognize them officially, because the Constitution bans the formation of parties based on confessional lines. In fact it fears them.

On the telephone from Cairo, Muslim Brotherhood spokesman Ma'mun al-Hudaiby gave the following explanation of the theory of the conspiracy against religions: "They would have us believe that 20,000 delegates from all over the world are here in Cairo to hold serious discussions on a plan on population and development during the course of a week, with a timetable that includes daily banquets and tourist excursions to every corner of Egypt. It is all a sham. In fact it is a powerful display to win support for a predetermined plan which conceals an ideological attack on religions, and specifically on Islam. It is no coincidence that they chose Cairo, the heart of Islam, to unleash this attack."

[LA REPUBBLICA] Why?

[Al-Hudaiby] Because it is only Islam that rigidly defends the sacrosanct nature of the family and that

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inflexibly opposes sexual perversions. The West's sole concern is to halt the growth of the Third World countries. So, even though we disagree with the Vatican on individual issues on the conference agenda, we say "yes" to the alliance against unbelievers, because there is an attempt under way to eliminate all religions. We Muslims believe in Moses and Jesus. We are not opposed to revealed religions, as long as we are not attacked.

[LA REPUBBLICA] But on what evidence is the theory of the conspiracy against religions based?

[AL-Hudaiby] The document presented to the Cairo conference is clearly antireligious and is dictated by a secular vision of life. There is no mention of God or religions. We are religious and believe that life must be molded according to God's will. This is why all Muslims in Egypt—not only we of the Muslim Brotherhood, but also the theologians of Al-Azhar University and the Orthodox Coptic Church—are in solidarity with the Vatican and all churches in countering the objectives of the Cairo Conference.

[LA REPUBBLICA] I would remind you that Mrs. Nafis Sadik, the secretary general of the Cairo conference and the main architect of the UN document on population, is a Muslim as well as a representative of the Third World. How can she be accused of being an infidel and accomplice of a conspiracy hatched by the secular West?

[Al-Hudaiby] I do not know whether she is a Muslim: She certainly behaves like an atheist.

Al-Hudaiby recalled that a few months ago a meeting of Christian and Muslim theologians was held at the Vatican, at the pope's initiative, to agree on a counteroffensive to the UN population plan. This was an unprecedented event, particularly on account of the presence on the Muslim side of representatives of the three major pan-Islamic organizations.

[LA REPUBBLICA] What are the prospects for this holy alliance?

[Al-Hudaiby] We must halt this conspiracy and this attack on religions. We must unite and coordinate our initiatives in order to restore the prestige and role of religions in society and throughout the world. An attempt is under way to change the world, starting with an attack on Islam, and we must issue a united response.

Minister: Extremists Penetrate Education Establishment

NC0709084794 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 2 Sep 94 p 2

[Report from Alexandria by Zakariya Fikri and Mu'min Rashad]

[Excerpt] Education Minister Dr. Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din has admitted that the extremists are still penetrating the educational establishment to breed terrorist cadres. The minister emphasized that the recent decline in the wave of terrorism resulting from successful security strikes does not mean that terrorism is over, only that it has ebbed. He said terrorists still have roots within the educational establishment, aiming to penetrate it and win power.

Speaking to members of the Popular Movement for Combating Terrorism in Alexandria the day before yesterday, the minister called on all government and nongovernment organizations to work together to uproot terrorism and free society from it. The minister said the ferocious war launched by some quarters against school uniform is the best proof that terrorism cells remain active. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Delivers Speech on Revolution Anniversary

LD0209092894 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1846 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Speech by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at a ceremony marking the 1 September Revolution in Tripoli—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, brothers, gentlemen, sons of the free Libyan people: First of all we congratulate ourselves on this historic day, on our victory—we the sons of the Libyan people—over the forces of repression and exploitation and on our triumph over the huge imperialist forces which occupied our land until 1 September 1969. [passage omitted]

We would say that those who come to Libya are brave because traveling to Libya is not like traveling to any other country. Traveling to Libya has a meaning different from that of traveling to any other country in the world. There are those who cannot come without permission from the U.S. embassy. Only the brave come to Libya, those who do not ask permission from the U.S. embassy. It is because Libya is the world platform for revolution, because Libya means the land of defiance. [passage omitted]

Brothers, we salute at this hour your sons and brothers, the free unionist officers and their brave soldiers who shouldered the responsibility of igniting the revolution in very dangerous conditions. They defied the five U.S. bases under which Libyan territory was sinking. They defied the bases of Britain which was claiming to be great and they defied the Italian settlement colonialism which owned almost everything on Libyan territory. They proclaimed with unequalled intrepidity the revolution and the destruction of the reactionary, corrupt lackey monarchy, which believed that it could stay in power forever by relying on the bases of America, the greatest state in the world, and the bases of Britain. It sold itself to Satan and it believed that Satan would remain forever, but we say that Satan will be defeated and will commit suicide.

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We say to those who resort to prolonging their political life and their tyranny over their peoples, and rely on America and America's power: Your fate will be that of the Libyan monarchy which relied on America and believed that anyone protected by America would never fall. History has however confirmed that whoever relies on America's protection will be the first to fall.

On the morning of this historic day, and contrary to the custom which had been followed for years, especially since the creation of the armed people and the termination of the regular army, we have seen a military parade that raised questions of how this could exist in a country which announced that the army has disappeared and where the armed people now exists.

We wanted to tell them that the armed people does exist, a fact that is being emphasized day by day. More than 1 million Libyans are prepared to enter battle immediately. Their weapons are available in the depots and are at their disposal and they have been highly trained. More than 1 million, with high military efficiency and with adequate weapons from all kinds, are capable of joining battle immediately.

There are those who think that the disappearance of the regular army and the creation of the armed people would mean the weakening of the defense capability of the Jamahiriyah. They actually talked about that. Therefore, we intended today to review a number of symbolic formations of the armored strike force which is at the disposal of the Libyan people. It consists of thousands of tanks and armored vehicles. We also reviewed symbolic formations of the aerial strike force.

Against them make ready your strength to the utmost of your power, including steeds of war, to strike terror into the enemies of God and your enemies, and others besides, whom ye may not know, but whom God doth know. [Koranic verse]

We thus want today to create terror in the hearts of the enemies of God and our enemy and those whom we may not know but who are known to God. We want to create terror in their hearts that there is a mighty power in the air and on land, an armored power and infantry equipped with every kind of weapon. [crowd chants slogans] We want to tell them that the Libyan people love peace and want peace, that peace is in their interest and they are like any other people in the world. It is in their interest that international peace is consolidated. We want to tell them that we have made every effort for peace, but if there is anybody who does not understand this language and is afflicted with a superiority complex and power madness and wants to scorn the independence of peoples and put down their choices and wants to deprive them of their right to live in safety and pride and with integrity on the land of their fathers and their forefathers under the sun. [sentence as heard]

We want to tell them that there is another language which they must understand. It is the language of defiance, the language of preparation for fighting and getting ready the force against which any attempt to harm Libya's pride and independence and interfere in Libya's internal affairs will be destroyed. We tell them that any action against Libya must take into account the fact that it constitutes huge risks for whoever commits it. Anyone thinking of harming the independence of this people and this land must understand that he will pay a high price, a price he cannot begin to calculate.

The forces of imperialism blatantly interfered in Somalia and humiliated the Somali people; they thought they were going on a picnic on the shores of Somalia but they ended up being involved in an unforeseen operation. The U.S. CIA had the biggest role in misleading the U.S. Government, which afterward misled the rest of the world's governments which also took part in the adventure. The CIA has many times drawn the United States into unpredicted traps; it was the CIA which misled Kennedy and drew him into a historic dilemma and it was big loss for the American people when the CIA got Kennedy involved in the war against the people of Vietnam.

It was the CIA which got the U.S. Government and NATO involved in Yugoslavia and it is still working to get the United States involved against Libya, Sudan, Algeria, the Palestinian people, the Lebanese people, and the Syrian people, and all the people which do not want anything but to live free on their fathers' and forefathers' land.

The U.S. CIA is using all means of deceit to get the U.S. Government involved, but it is the the poor naive and ignorant American people who are not aware of things and it is the American people who are paying the price; indeed, they paid very dearly in Vietnam and Somalia and are paying everywhere, but they will pay even more dearly if the United States ever thought of intervening in Libya.

At the same time we say to them: We are displaying the tanks in thousands, the fighters and bombers in hundreds to terrify the enemy. At the time of real battle we might not need all these thousands of tanks or hundreds of bombers and fighters; we might keep them in store or we might even sacrifice them. We would depend on more than 1 million Libyans who carry light and medium arms and are able to set the whole of the Libyan territory ablaze and turn it into burning coals under the feet of anyone who tries to trample on free Libyan land.

America is definitely going to say that U.S. soldiers will be out of the range of Libyan tanks and aircraft and Libya could be hit by the United States without Libya being able to reach America and retaliate. This is true, but this a terrorist act which does not make any difference.

America's long-range missiles and long-range warplanes have not changed the world's map. Tripoli, where we are now, witnessed this kind of aggression in 1986, but what happened then in Tripoli or Bengazi? Children were

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killed. This is a shame and disgrace for America, a disgrace which tarnishes the whole of humanity. Women and old people were killed and civilian homes were demolished by U.S. aircraft and missiles. It is a disgrace for America and its allies and lackeys; it is also a disgrace for the whole world which has not reacted yet, has not surrounded America and put it back within its borders so that it realizes that the planet earth is not U.S. property. The earth is the property of 150 peoples who have the right to fight in defense of their share of the planet.

Even if the United States was able to land on the moon, it cannot own the earth. The conquest of space is just an act for show which could have given them big heads, having planted their flag on the moon, but it is extremely difficult for America to plant its flag on land where there is a people who are prepared to fight like the Libyan people.

We are celebrating today the festivity of the world revolution amid conspicuous challenges and within new circumstances where international equilibrium has been lost.

The oppressive sole superpower in the world entertains the idea that it can rule the world. The Libyan revolution is one of the world facts that will effectively contribute to the persuasion of those power-monopolists to reconsider their calculations. The Libyan revolution, in collaboration with other revolutions, might compel them to retreat to their borders. [passage omitted]

The Libyan revolution is determined, if necessary, to play the role of the Spanish peasants' revolution and destroy the tyrants. The end of America could come in an unexpected place. The end of imperialism could come in some overlooked place. It could take place in a very small place, somewhere considered a very weak place. Yet the confrontation at that place could be the beginning of the end of the vain ones.

Mogadishu may be the beginning of the end of American clamor. America was defeated before poor, barefoot, and destitute Somalis. America had some of them killed by the soldiers of Islamic states—Islamic in name only—which fought under the banner of the crusade. They fought the Islamic, Arab Somali people. The Somali people suffered the loss of 1 million martyrs for whom America is responsible, the America which boasts about human rights. Let the world hear today from this free place, that America killed 1 million children, women and old people and unarmed civilians. It killed 1 million Somalis in defense of false arrogance, the arrogance of imperialism. This is the America which boasts about human rights but scorns man, the cost at which it achieves its imperialist interests.

The Somali people suffered the loss of 1 million martyrs and inflicted the worst defeat upon America. America, defeated, was forced to get out from Somalia in broad daylight. America was forced to swallow its words and it forced the false Security Council to issue this decision against the hero of the Somali resistance Aidid who was wanted as war criminal. A man who fights for his honor, home, family, country, people, wife and children on his land was considered a war criminal. The false Security Council issued a resolution considering Aidid as a war criminal wanted for trial.

If those who fight for their honor, homes, families, children and homeland become war criminals, then who is the innocent fighter? Who has the right to fight if he is a war criminal? Who are the criminals? The criminal is America, the imperialist states, and the states which rallied under America's banner and entered Somalia. These are the war criminals who must be tried and punished. The peoples will try them one day and the peoples will triumph.

This is an encouraging beginning, that the barefoot poor defeat the rich and strong. It is an encouraging beginning. When it happened in Somalia it raised morale in Libya and elsewhere.

Libya has offered every solution, shown patience, opened its heart, extended its hand, yet they ask the impossible. Well then, if there is no common language between us, we also do not understand their language. If they say there is no justice in Libya, we would say there no justice either in Britain or in America.

We respect the UN Charter and will implement the UN Charter and the Montreal Treaty and let them go drink from the sea if they are acting against the will of the international community, show disdain to the UN Charter, and act outside the UN Charter.

Does the UN Charter allow the Security Council to issue a decision to arrest a hero of national resistance such as Aidid? Did it allow them to enter Somalia—or allow them to demand that a national from another country be tried in theirs?

The UN Charter, you peoples—all peoples not only the Libyan people—does not allow interference in Somalia or in Rwanda or in Lebanon or in Cambodia or in Yugoslavia. These are just examples.

All current operations under the UN flag are contrary to and a blatant violation of the UN Charter. We do not accept and we do not recognize all these operations and consider them as invasion and colonialism that must be resisted. The Libyan people will place their capabilities at the disposal of those peoples, who are resisting this violation, in protection of the UN Charter.

The Libyan people are today celebrating, proud that they have created a revolution which may help change the world. America cannot deny that the 1 September Revolution is an international revolution. How? Because America, the biggest state in the world and the only superpower in the world now has no foe but Libya; it has no adversary. It is only bothered about the September Revolution and the proof of this is that the U.S. President every six years ... [pauses] every six months [words

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indistinct]. The U.S. President is forced every six months to present a report to the U.S. House of Representatives, known as the Congress, about the course of the conflict between Libya and the United States. This is official. All the international ambassadors know this. America knows this. Every six months you read this news, every six months.

I do not mean that poor U.S. President Clinton. He himself is the victim of American intelligence and is afraid for himself. They will eliminate him just as they eliminated poor Kennedy who loved peace and had no background of colonialism. He is a young man without the legacy of World War II and he was against the Vietnam war. But he himself was helpless against American imperialist circles, the companies which trade, which live by war, the American intelligence which lives on conspiracy. Kennedy was their victim. I mean every U.S. president, even those who came before our friend Clinton. [passage omitted]

We are unaware of such a conflict between us and America. We know that America is an imperialist state and we always say may God protect us from its evil. But if America comes we will destroy it and defeat it. We will fight to the last man and we will not surrender. This is something which should happen: If we have decided to die America cannot prevent us from making the decision to die, just like the Somalis and the Vietnamese.

America ... [pauses] the report says every six months, every six months. I ask all the Libyan media to publish these reports including the last one and to publish the reports which come regularly every six months. All the reports say that Libya still constitutes a great danger to U.S. interests in the world. This is testimony from America.

This is testimony that the Fatih revolution is a world revolution. This is testimony to that from America. Ortega bears witness to that. We did not know Ortega before the revolution. When he led the revolution we supported it. America claimed that Libya has created a new Libya on its doorstep, the Sandanists in Nicaragua. [applause]

How is it, brothers, that Libya, the small peaceful country which seeks peace and for whom peace is in its interest, constitutes a serious threat to U.S. worldwide interests? What does this mean? It means that the interests of the United States are: the surrender of the world, the subjugation of the peoples and plundering their resources, the humiliation of humanity, the trampling on human rights, slaughtering the Palestinian people, slaughtering the Lebanese people, destroying Lebanon, destroying Iraq, besieging Libya, besieging Syria, dealing a blow to the African peoples, dealing a blow to the peoples of Latin America, dealing a blow to the peoples of Eastern Europe, dealing a blow to the Asian peoples, the seizure of the seas and the oceans, to become the devil, to be made a god like on earth.

If these were the interests of the United States then Libya is against these interests and resists them ferociously and vigorously and consequently the report becomes true.

First there would have been no chance for any friction between Libya and America until doomsday. Between us and America is the Atlantic Ocean. It lies in the western hemisphere while we are in the eastern hemisphere. There are no land borders. We are not like the former Soviet Union or China or Germany or Japan. We are a small country. We are a small state which could have been obscure and forgotten. Before the revolution it was difficult for people to know the difference between Libya and Liberia, Libya and Lebanon, Libya and Ecuador. For half an hour they would ask you, what is this Libya? So it was indeed a small obscure state. Among Westerners what is known about us is the hostility between Libya and America.

We do not want to occupy or blockade America. We do not want to occupy the Atlantic or the Pacific Ocean. We only want to live in peace on the land of our forefathers. If this threatens America's interests then so be it, since we are continuing this threat because our determination to live in complete freedom on the land of our fathers and grandfathers continues. We will resist America on the land of our fathers and grandfathers. If this threatens America's interests then so be it.

We are surprised that the world can witness this blatant injustice. Libya constitutes a threat to America's interests. This means that the Libyan revolution is victorious over America. [passage omitted]

This is true because the world is fighting for freedom and peace. America wants to kill freedom and peace and to subjugate the world. This is impossible because the peoples who fight for freedom will be victorious.

We are telling them today as we speak in the name of an international revolution as the United States and Britain said it—I will come back to what I wanted to tell them—but now I would like to talk about Britain, there is daily fighting taking place in its capital, in the heart of London and in London's international airport which was closed for two weeks while it was under artillery shelling, I am talking about the airport of Great Britain's capital. Everybody knows about London's airport, I do not know its name, oh yes Heathrow [laughs], you all know it and have used it. Now this airport was closed for two weeks because of the shelling. The headquarters of Great Britain's Government was also under mortar attacks. Now we have the fighting which used to take place in the oceans and in the world's continents against the British-dominated and occupied peoples, peoples who were occupied by the empire on which the sun never set; as I said, we have that fighting moving now to the heart of London. They should learn their lessons from this.

Britain says that Libya is the one that is fighting in central London. This is what Britain said, it said that the IRA is fighting inside London shelling Downing Street

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and Heathrow Airport with Libya's support and it is Libya that is arming the IRA.

We support the cause of Ireland; it is a sacred cause for us and we will never back down in our support. Northern Ireland is an integral part of southern Ireland. This is a case of a people which should be united, and we would never agree to dividing the world on a religious basis, absolutely not. All the world has now recognized the Sinn Fein as the political wing of the IRA because its cause is a just cause and we support it continuously, it is a matter of principle. When Britain fought us we armed the IRA and moved the battle to central London indeed, but we stopped arming the IRA out of conviction when we saw that the IRA's attacks went further than military targets to harm civilians. We do not support attacks on civilians; it is Britain that killed civilians and children in 1986 in central Benghazi and Tripoli, it is the United States that killed children everywhere and is still killing them now, at this very moment, in Yugoslavia and Somalia.

But it is we who are civilized. We respect children and old people, we respect civilians. We stopped arming the IRA not out of pity for Britain but out of pity for the civilians.

So Britain knows that its capital is under Libyan shelling by an act of the Libyan revolution. This is another piece of evidence that the Libyan revolution is a world revolution. When Britain killed India [as heard], it killed thousands and millions in India, in the Levant, in Sudan, in Egypt and in Iraq, in Africa and Asia which it colonized, in Latin America, in the Malvinas which is an indivisible part of Argentina. It kills them like sheep, rats, rabbits—not like human beings.

But when the killing of Britons starts, then consideration for human beings starts begins and anyone who kills them is a criminal. Britons are historically criminals. If the IRA is under the authority of the Libyan revolution, we make a call on this historic day in the name of this international revolution asking the IRA to halt military operations if there is indeed a possibility of solving the problem of Northern Ireland by peaceful means. It should also halt operations against civilians, innocent people, civilian targets.

Very well, since we have power over the IRA and issue orders to it, let Britain come and negotiate with us. Since we constitute a danger to American interests in the world, let America come and negotiate with us, the source of the danger. They should come and talks to the source of the danger. [passage omitted]

Any thought of subjugating Libya and forcing it to accept what cannot be accepted, such the abandonment of the independence of Palestine, or the independence of Lebanon, or the independence of the Arab territories, or the Palestinian people's right to return to the land of their fathers and forefathers and the creation of their independent state, or the endeavor to achieve Arab unity and to liberate the Arab nation, or to build up power to defend our independence. We will not give up these.

They should understand that Libya cannot be subjugated. If they want to annihilate Libya, they are welcome. Do they want to hit it with nuclear bombs? They have thousands of nuclear bombs. If they want to commit a crime let them commit the crime. We would force them to commit a crime; otherwise, we will continue to resist for our right to life and independence.

We are telling them that confrontation with Libya is extremely dangerous. We are telling the peoples of the Arab nation, on the other hand, that what is happening at present, the so-called peace, is false and untrue, it is an imposition of unconditional surrender on the Arab nation. The Arab nation once again [words indistinct].

Sons of the Arab nation, the Arab nation has bowed down and defeat has been imposed on it. The Arab nation has been defeated in the Middle East, there is no doubt about that. It would be bravery on our part to declare the defeat of the Arab nation. Yes, the recognition of Israel was a result of the Arab nation's defeat. It was defeated and God is victorious. [passage omitted]

The Arab nation has been defeated in the Middle East and it might, after its defeat, win again.

Let the sons of the Arab nation hear, there is no peace but a submission to the unconditional recognition of the existence of Israel at the expense of the Palestinian people and the independence of the Arab nation and even at the expense of the security of the Arab nation. Because Israel possess more that 200 nuclear warheads, nuclear missiles with a range of 4000 km targeted on North Africa, Iraq, the Arabian Peninsula, Sudan and Egypt.

Who would accept the claims about Korea, about whether it is manufacturing a nuclear bomb or not? And Pakistan, and whether it is manufacturing a nuclear bomb or not? In Libya a very small pharmaceutical plant which is open to anybody who wants to visit, was the cause of harsh persecution and threats, up to and including movements of fleets; is Libya manufacturing a chemical bomb?

Why is so-called Israel not pursued? Let the world hear this voice, why did America not pursue so-called Israel and inspect its nuclear, biological, and chemical arsenal which poses a grave danger to the Arab nation?

What peace is that? What is happening now with the current negotiations and all the efforts by America are to subjugate the Arab nation to the Israelis. They should kneel down before the Israelis' feet and kiss the Israelis' feet and lick the Israelis' feet with total humiliation. This is what America wants and this is what the Arabs who entered this door are currently doing.

This is the truth; it is surrendering to the Israelis. It is handing over the Arab nation to the Israelis. This is peace, this is solving the Palestinian problem.

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We do not want war, we want peace, but there is a way for peace. We reject surrender. What is currently taking place is surrender. The solution to the problem of Palestine is similar to the solution of the problem of South Africa. All Palestinians who left their country in fear since 1948 and 1967, 7 million displaced people dispersed in the world, should return to Palestine, elections should be held under UN supervision and a democratic state should be set up in Palestine. This is the solution. All weapons of mass destruction should be removed. [passage omitted]

America is continuously putting pressure to make the Arabs kneel one after the other. You people, the United States is making the Arabs kneel. It is making us kneel by using our oil, our millions, and our strategic resources. It is making us kneel. America should have knelt to Saudi Arabia, to Abu Dhabi, and Kuwait because it needed their oil, in the same way as it kneels to the Jews whose money it needs. [passage omitted]

It is the Jewish money which installs the U.S. President it wants. This is well known. You people, how could America make us kneel by means of our oil. Why does not the American President kneel before the Saudi king, the Kuwaiti amir, and the UAE shaykh. America is the one which is begging from Saudi Arabia. Eight million barrels of oil are pumped daily to America. Saudi Arabia has done the U.S. economy a favor. It is saving the U.S. economy every time it comes close to collapse.

The passenger airliner deal is well known; Saudi Arabia has (?enriched) the U.S. budget by $6 billion. Saudi Arabia does not need these planes, which were aid from Saudi Arabia to America. Despite this, the Arabs have no prestige, no say, and no respect.

King Fahd has exerted his efforts to solve the Lockerbie problem with America. There was no point. America told him that what he was saying went in one ear and went out of the other. It takes 8 million barrels of oil per day from him, and does not accord him any prestige.

This is contempt and scorn for the Arabs. Look at the Arabs from the American point of view. They despise them. They should have knelt down to [UAE President] Shaykh Zayid. Shaykh Zayid represents Libyan interests in the United States. The Embassy of the Emirates represents Libyan interests in the United States just as the Belgian Embassy represents American interests in Libya. This is a diplomatic tradition. Nevertheless Shaykh Zayid exerted every effort with America which needs its oil, but to no avail.

America went to war with Iraq for the sake of Kuwait's oil. The amir of Kuwait made every effort with the Libyan people, but to no avail. America said that the Arabs have no standing. It grabs the oil and you keep quiet. You accept aid on your knees. You kneel and keep quiet.

An Arab president said to me—he was crying—he said: As soon as I opened my mouth and said that Libya was a brotherly state, they said: Shut up! They told him to shut his mouth. He was crying. But he needed America. So the Arab who needs America economically is censured but is the Arab whom America needs censured or not? He should not be censured because he needs America from the security aspect. Protect me America and give me money, or, I am with you America, give me money.

So the Arab world is not independent, not because the rulers are traitors as some people have interpreted it; we know them all. They aspire to freedom and independence and they even hate America. They hate the Israelis. All of them—kings, presidents, shaykhs and sultans alike. But they are not independent so the Arab nation is not independent. Not one of them can form a government without consulting America or France. France and America can only be surprised at the formation of an Arab government in a very limited number of states. [passage omitted]

Finally we advise America, we consider the American people to be a friendly people. It was possible for there to be no problem between us and America. Any clash between Libya and America can still be avoided. Such a clash is not in America's interest because America is an adventurer and a trader which likes to make profits without losses. But a clash with Libya will cause huge losses.

As for Libya, it does not care. It is fighting on its land and is in the right. There can be no better decision than to fight for our land and remain steadfast on it. If we surrender they will plunder us, enslave us, take our oil, turn us into slaves, turn us into animals. We will not accept this fate. We will fight. Fighting is the best way for us. There is no decision better than steadfastness and fighting to the last man and woman for the Libyan people and for any people which is facing a challenge like the Libyan people.

They must understand this because we cannot accept any other course. The other courses are that we would lose our freedom and independence, our land and our wealth, our oil. These are the other courses, all of which we cannot endure. We can endure fighting. It is the easiest thing to fight, to become martyrs to the last man. America must understand this. The Libyan people are determined, and I am with the Libyan people. I lead this people in a revolutionary way.

We must join the battle in which we all die and we will not surrender. We will never surrender because surrender is abominable and we cannot accept it. The last Libyan will commit suicide if he is not killed in battle. The resistance will begin from Libya. The resistance will begin from Libya if necessary and the retreat of the tyrannical power will begin when it clashes with Libya. This is sure because the Libyan people are armed. I said that a million Libyans have now reached me from the popular guards [al-munawabah al-sha'biyah], 2 million Libyans are able to go to war. The number has doubled.

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America must prepare itself to engage in a battle with 2 million Libyans who are trained and armed with various kinds of weapons. Libya is capable of being the safety valve for peace in North Africa, Africa, and the Arab region. At the same time Libya is capable of removing the safety valve and blowing up the whole of North Africa along with itself and its enemies.

When Libya is in danger and aggression threatens it, the stores and the borders will be opened to the Arab nation so that a fire will blaze from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf. America and its agents should know that if the time of need comes the stores will be opened and at the same moment the borders will be opened. Weapons will be distributed to everyone who wants to fight and the region from the Atlantic to the Gulf will be set ablaze.

Libya rejects the degradation that there is a state which is falsely called Israel which is exempted from sanctions and from Chapter 7 [of the UN Charter]. [passage omitted]

You should know that as for all the Arab territory from which so-called Israel has withdrawn or from which it may withdraw in the future, this is just a sham withdrawal. These Arab lands were handed over to the American forces. Now they are talking about withdrawal from the Golan provided that the Golan is handed over to the American forces. Let the Syrian people hear this.

This is the reason Syria rejected these pressures aimed at putting the Golan under U.S. control; namely Israel would withdraw from the Golan and hand it over to its ally, the United States. There are U.S. or international troops on the land that is called Israel; that is not allowed. International troops should be on Arab land. They like to put a condition on their withdrawal from the Golan and that is that it should remain not Syrian! A sham withdrawal! [passage omitted]

Arab countries are helpless under American pressure. America's goal and task is the Arabs' subjugation to the Israelis. This is the task U.S. foreign policy is carrying out in the Arab area. The aim of all these rounds of talks and economic assistance is to put Arabs under Israeli shoes.

Look at this humiliation the Arab nation has been forced into. Let the Arab nation hear this: All of Europe and America have agreed that there should not be a Muslim people, such a thing is not allowed; so why is there a Jewish people in the heart of the Arab world?

We are not against the Jews; we are with them because we know that Arabs will eventually be victorious over the Jews in Palestine. Palestine is the promised land for death, it is the cemetery of the Jews, and out of pity, we tell the Jews to leave Palestine. We challenge countries which do indeed resent Jews to accept them as equal citizens. Why cannot a French Jew feel safe in France? Why did Russian Jews not remain in Russia? Why were they expelled to Palestine? This can only mean that the world wants to get rid of the Jews and throw them into Palestine because it knows that it is the land of death and the final grave for the Israelis. We, out of pity for the Jews and so that they do not get exterminated and destroyed by the Palestinian people and coming generations of the Arab nations, we tell them to leave Palestine and become equal citizens with the other citizens in their countries of origin, the countries they came from.

We accept the eastern Jews who have lived with us for thousands of years—and those who live with the Palestinian people, Palestine. The geography of the world does not know Israel, this Israel is Jacob, the name of the prophet Jacob is Israel. As for this land, its name is Palestine. Now America is coercing the Arabs: You must say Israel, reject the word Palestine, where is Palestine? Is it on the West Bank, is it on Jordanian land, is it in Gaza, Egyptian? The Golan is Syrian.

When the PLO was set up in 1964...[pauses] 1956, no 1964, who was it against if Palestine was the land occupied in 1967? How was the PLO formed in 1964? It means that if the Palestinians were independent why would they set up a liberation organization? To liberate Palestine which is outside the West Bank. You hear about refugee camps in Gaza and the West Bank. Where have these Palestinians, those in the camps, come from? They have come from the Palestinian coast. Their cities, Jaffa, Acre, Haifa, and Tel Aviv are Palestinian cities. They were expelled from these cities and they erected camps for them in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. They are strangers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The first basic solution, which should have been put forward before Gaza and Jericho, is that the people in the camps in Gaza and the West Bank should return to their land on the coast which is occupied. Those who left Gaza and the West Bank in 1967 should return from the world to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. All right then, we have 30,000 Palestinians from Gaza [in Libya]. Let them go to Gaza tomorrow. Did they not say that Gaza has been liberated? All the Palestinians in Libya, thousands of Palestinians, will be sent to Gaza since you said that Gaza has become independent while they are expelled from it. This is a reasonable thing so set up a committee for this purpose, the committee for return.

I would like to ask for a meeting with the popular leaderships that have been set up in every region within the next few days so that we can talk about the historic revolutionary program inside Libya and put forward and discuss the issues for which this is not the place. [passage omitted]

I would like to ask all the popular leaderships which have led the masses of the people during recent months in the battle of mobilization for the challenge and confrontation, and which have been formed in all regions of the Great Jamahiriyah, to be present in the next few days to talk about the tasks of this historic leadership which from now onward will bear the responsibility of collective leadership and mobilization of the masses in peace and war.

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Long live the 1 September revolution. The struggle continues.

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses 'Popular Commands'

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[Speech by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to "popular commands" in Tripoli on 5 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] First of all, I thank you all for answering the invitation and coming from every far place in the Great Jamahiriyah to meet today at this important gathering. The meeting at the Green Square was international and was attended by heads of states and delegations of friendly, sisterly, and foreign countries and it was necessary to talk that day on international and Pan-Arab affairs. It was not appropriate to talk about our internal affairs in front of them. This important meeting today will be devoted to talk about these internal affairs. I reiterate my apologies for the inconvenience you might have encountered attending this meeting which I consider to be a very important one. [passage omitted]

I greet you and greet the masses that were mobilized and activated by you in streets and squares [during al-Qadhdhafi's recent tours in various regions]. We have honored ourselves before the world, and the enemy has begun to review its calculations and it may retreat in the face of the determination of the Libyan people to resist. [applause] Just as the enemy is voicing threats in an attempt to affect our morale and is launching a psychological warfare against us in various ways, your taking to squares and streets, your strong voice and the slogans expressing determination and acceptance of confrontation are also a display of our moral and material power. So, we too may instil fear in the enemy and we too may launch counterpsychological warfare against it. On this occasion, I feel the weight of the trust and love which you and the masses you mobilized have expressed. It is a great honor for me to bear medals from the popular masses. This does not exist in any state of the world. [applause] [passage omitted]

Good and evil also exist in the battle of life. Triumph ultimately is for the people. The people are the masters and the owners of the land. They have the future in their own hands. [passage omitted]

Since the sixth anniversary of the revolution we accepted that everything would be transferred to the masses and would be done democratically and not dictatorially. [passage omitted]

I also believe that the Libyan people now have a high degree of political awareness through their exercising of the people's authority since 1977, and that what is prohibited for other peoples and those who are around us is permitted to the Libyan people. [passage omitted]

The Libyan people has opened a historic path before all other peoples—there is no doubt about it. Consequently this people should be determined to forge ahead regardless of the circumstances on the road of the people's democracy and the people's authority, the people's congresses, and the people's committees. What will make us successful, God willing, in this historic path is the birth of the people's command. [applause]

By the creation of the communes or the mahallah, which consists of a people's congress and a people's committee, true democracy was unquestionably created. The people's sovereignty and people's authority were confirmed over its land. [applause] [passage omitted]

Many people and even Arab peoples do not know each other, that is one people does not know another. As far as we are concerned, when you mention the name of a family in Libya, it is possible that everybody knows it, and they would say that family is affiliated to such and such tribe from such and such region and from such and such place, and whether it does good or bad deeds. This is very important because it creates a social deterrent against evil and pushes people to do good deeds and things that will give a good reputation to the one who does it in front of people who know each other. [passage omitted]

I have proposed a solution which is submitted to you for discussion. I believe that the Secretariat of the General People's Committee will enact a law—you have authorized it to enact organizational administrative decisions. But we want to draw your attention to the fact that what we are saying has no connection whatever with the full jurisdictions of the communes; the quarter is a jamahiriyah [applause]; the commune or the quarter of the people's conference is a mini-state by itself which has a conference and a people's committee and has the authority to run matters within its boundaries in its own interest in the way it wants. [applause].

I found out that this distance is big and the number of people linked to the general secretary is large, considering the number of mahallat, communes, and people's congresses. This makes this person unable to assimilate [words indistinct] what the members of the people's committee of the mahallah who are under his jurisdiction say to him. I saw that we must bring things closer and shorten the distance between the secretary for agriculture in the commune of Traghin and the general secretary in Tripoli or al-Jufrah without changing the jurisdiction of the secretary of the commune or the mahallah of Traghin and they will keep all the powers they have. [passage omitted]

We will keep the general secretary for agriculture and we will have 14 or 13 secretaries for agriculture and everyone of them will live in a region and will have the same powers as the general secretary for agriculture. The mahallah will enjoy the same powers stipulated by the law issued by the Basic People's Congresses [BPC]. This means that there will be a secretary for agriculture in al-Fazzan region who will have the same powers as the

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general secretary for agriculture, the secretary of the General People's Committee for Agriculture. [passage omitted]

In general they are about 14. I had this idea and submitted it to the Secretariat of the General People's Committee and told them to review it. They are naturally happy with this idea and they have not been able to make decisions in this matter and are afraid that any initiative would be considered as perhaps an attempt from them to deceive people's authority or something like this. On the contrary, this strengthens people's authority and these 14 or 13 regions will become a sort of small jamahiriyahs which administer themselves by themselves. [applause and slogans] [passage omitted]

For the first time, we will achieve a comprehensive mobilization of all the children we have educated and we will benefit from them. [applause]

Second, with regard to people's authority and the powers which make us a free people and a free land, we will benefit for the first time from this thing which has been achieved and we will benefit materially from it in our lives. This is a program which will enable us to have powers in our regions and communes as if the latter is a state existing by itself. Every region will study its future.

Third, we will benefit from our public funds and from oil—from the funds obtained from oil—for the first time. These funds will be transferred in the form of loans and will be allocated to people and to every region and we will use them for the first time in a real revolutionary transformational investment program. This was absent. [applause]

We wished to benefit from oil, from our children whom we have educated, from people's authority but for years we did not find a way with which we would benefit from these things. Now this way has been found. [passage omitted]

With regard to oil income, I believe that now we will be assured that it will be turned into loans that will go down to the streets, to the base, to people, to every individual, every family in a cooperative. [applause] In addition to this—loans to every region which they will invest and then pay back—I have to mention what I have promised: I had told you that with the laying down of a rational policy, every family will have its share of the oil money. [applause] This subject was submitted to the people's congresses which decided the following: They said that this money, $5,000 or $10,000 would be given to needy families, to families with several members. The conditions laid down by the people's congresses are to be found in the resolutions [of the congresses]. You have said that this money should be handed over in accordance with a rational policy recommended by the people's congresses, i.e money will not be given to somebody who says: I am going to use them to buy useless things or candy. What would the Libyan people benefit from somebody who gets his share in oil to buy candy or ice cream? This is not reasonable. He must buy something that benefits him and the country. [passage omitted]

Oil revenue is low—I told you before in a speech that the revenue rises or falls according to the oil prices. For about the last two years oil prices oil prices have been the minimum. They may go up again. There are about 100,000 families who will annually receive as from now $5,000. [applause] [passage omitted]

Those families who have account numbers will find out that they have in their accounts in the banks $5,000 every year. They will spend the amount according to what has been decided by the people's conferences. [passage omitted] All this will be clarified to you through various means.

But I am happy that 100,000 families will now annually receive directly into their accounts the sum of $5,000 free of charge. [applause] If we multiply the figure of 100,000 by 10—since each family has 10 members, for example—this means that 1 million Libyans will benefit from this decision. I insist that, if we can, the oil revenue will be transferred to the people by various methods so that they can use them, and not to be transferred to the treasury of the General People's Committee for Treasury. If we can! I shall be making every effort so that the oil revenue will be gradually directly transferred to the people. This time it may concern 100,000 families, while some other time another 50,000 families or another 100,000 families will be added; or 300,000 families, etc. This will go until the whole of the oil revenue will be transferred directly to the people so that they can directly use it, only leaving for the General People's Committee its public expenditure. But when will this happen? When you yourselves take over the industry, agriculture, health, education, etc. in the form of partnerships, families or individuals. You will take the oil revenues and use them instead of the General People's Committee. The General People's Committee is now using the oil revenue on your behalf; using the revenues for building a factory or a road, or a project, etc. [passage omitted]

The thing I believe in and hope I can explain, and you understood from me, and with which I am concerned, is that we take the budget from the secretariats and we will give it to the people. Who are the people though? The people are partnerships, shareholding companies, families, and the individual who works for himself. When we say that agriculture will take 100 million [dinars] and will implement agricultural projects with that amount, if we find 1,000 partnerships which implement agricultural projects, we would give them the 100 million [dinars] instead of giving them to the secretariat for agriculture. This is just an example.

The economic system which we have adopted is socialism. Socialism is the system of partnerships; nobody should entertain the ambition that capitalism will return or that effortless gain will continue. Everybody must understand. [applause]

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The economies of the world and capitalist states which we believe will collapse will do so because they have few producers and too many consumers. [passage omitted]

As from this date—the 25th anniversary of the 1 September revolution—we said that the first 20 years were the introduction of the revolution; then the subsequent five years we used for the reorganization. Now we begin the real revolution. The first 20 years were the prelude for the revolution. All these were experiments and strife and getting to know the world and getting to know the *politics and ourselves; we have known ourselves.* We knew those who have plundered the revolution and those who betrayed the people etc. We knew even the useless families—those connected to colonialism; those who sell their homeland to fill their stomachs. We also knew those who sacrificed and those who give to the revolution. [cheers and applause] [passage omitted]

Generally speaking we experimented during the past 20 years. During that period we fought America, Britain, and France as well as Arab reaction. They fought us and we fought them. We entered into successful as well as lost battles. All that was an introduction for the revolution. Now we have expertise and lessons from which we can benefit and we have confidence in ourselves. We can say that this is from the experiment and that we can with power tackle this or that problem. But the experiment has for example shown us that we should not attempt other things. [passage omitted]

If you want free education and a free health service you must insist on the implementation of national service. We must insist on the implementation of national service. These things will not continue to be free if there is no national service. I have told you time and time again that if the richest state in the world takes charge of health or education and spends on them from its budget, it will collapse. America, Japan, and Germany, the most industrialized states, will collapse. If they say: Anyone who wants to be educated in America will get a free education and anybody wanting medical treatment will get it free, the American state will go bankrupt and will collapse.

We want free education and free health service and we adhere to this in the socialist society; however, we must perform national service. If I graduate as a doctor, I will work in a hospital either with a grant or without getting any income at all for six months and after that I will go and open a dispensary or join a partnership, a hospital partnership. [passage omitted]

Now we are complaining about smuggling and the black market; I have spoken about this previously. Any initiative by the people which happens to be correct should be established and should be the basis for the enacting of laws and basis for responsibilities. [passage omitted]

If the cursed dollar is wanted—I do not know who wants the dollar; I believe that a small group wants dollars, but ordinary good people do not want them—if the dollar is wanted then let that be in the open. The Central Bank should announce that it is the market for dollars, and that any Libyan wanting to buy or sell dollars should call at the Bank. [applause] Why should this happen in the black market and why should those involved be chased by the police or the authorities and be imprisoned by them, leaving their families without support? Why? Let this be in the open. [passage omitted]

If dollars are necessary, as I have told you, and you want to buy and sell them, the Central Bank should do this openly through its market without a need for an underground market or anything else.

I want to talk to you about currency. The subject of the currency is very important and requires understanding and I do not care who would object to that, from the Central Bank or anybody else.

The currency is the dinar; you should know this so no one can deceive you. I noticed once in the past years the Central Bank wanted to change the currency, change the dinar, change its shape or something. It gave a period of two weeks or so to change the old currency before it would become invalid. [passage omitted] I tell you now that the Central Bank has the freedom, like any Central Bank in the world, to change this currency at any time. I tell you: The Central Bank, like any central bank, is free to change the currency at any time [applause], and it does not have to give people, sometimes, any time. It can say: In 24 hours, all currency now in circulation will become worthless and be replaced by another white-colored currency. [applause] The bank sometimes deems this necessary, and it is free to change currency any month. [passage omitted] So, put your money in the bank—and the bank is free. The currency can change 100 times a day, and you will be in peace, reassured. [passage omitted]

We have drawn your attention to the fact that the Central Bank is prepared, and has the right at any given moment, to announce the exchange of Libyan currency into any other currency [cheers] [words indistinct] If it is in our interest, and if we are prepared to accept goods purchased abroad into Libya and to send them abroad again to sell them—this, in economic jargon is called re-exporting—what do we call it? We call it smuggling. No, if the people's conferences decided and are convinced of the opinion of the economic experts at the General People's Committee for the Economy and Trade—we listen to this opinion and to what it tells us—the committee said these or those goods, 50 types, for example—are allowed to be taken out of Libya; Libya imports them and re-exports them. This is because such an operation realizes such and such interest and such and such gain. Let us assume that a number of people come forward and say that they want to be businessmen involved in re-exporting. They obtain a licence and pay duties, and quite openly, in broad daylight, take these goods out of Libya to an another country—not through smuggling. [passage omitted]

We have 46 established social people's commands in important locations in the Jamahiriyah. Each location

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has a number of communes. The people's command is distributed among the quarters and communes; they motivate the masses and the people's conferences; they bolster the people's authority and lead the area in all its communes toward the realization of the revolutionary program, which we will speak about at another; we have spoken about it individually with each command. I am satisfied that—just as you have raised our morale and made us strong against the enemies who began to reconsider their positions—you will not disappoint us in leading, motivating, and mobilizing the masses, and in implementing the revolutionary program. [passage omitted]

I hope that because of the people I met, the morale I witnessed, and the challenges around us, we will triumph in this battle and that each area will succeed with its program.

We would have liked to see the entire Arab nation united, and using all its resources—water, finance, manpower, and other wealth—in a strategic pan-Arab program so that the Arab nation may become like America. But very much to our regret, the Arab nation was defeated—the most two powerful armies, the Egyptian and Syrian armies—entered several lost battles in the past. As a matter of fact, only Egypt and Syria fought. Jordan never fought. Palestinian fedayeen also fought. This Arab force entered into several lost battles, and the other Arabs became disillusioned—if the combined assault forces of Egypt and Syria were not capable of liberating Palestine, we should admit defeat and give up. The Palestinian issue was not solved; the Arab nation was defeated. Now, regrettably, the victor is now imposing its conditions on the vanquished. What we are seeing from the Ocean to the Gulf is the imposition of conditions by the victor on the vanquished: recognize Israel; otherwise, we will do this or that. They even try to bargain with us—you want to solve the Lockerbie issue, then you had better establish relations with Israel. Is that logical? We do not care whether the Lockerbie issue is solved, either now or until doomsday. [cheers, applause]

We have presented the Arabs with a project on an Arab federation—the transformation of the Arab summit conference into a federal pan-Arab council. The latter will come within the structuring of the Arab League so that the League measures and procedures can be applied in the council. It will have a federal executive council, specialized federal councils, a pan-Arab federal conference, and a federal bank and a federal court. Both the Arab Joint Defence Pact and the Treaty of Economic Unity will be applied. That is sufficient. The Arab nation would then have risen. That required an Arab summit conference. But now any Arab is not prepared to meet with another Arab, but is prepared to meet with the Israelis. Imagine! Now, the Arabs meet with the Israelis—the enemy—and with the Americans, yet refuse to meet each other. That is it; each person is applying what the Talmud says—look at the people kneeling before you and you are God's chosen people, and the Arabs who are around you are savages and barbaric; kill them like sheep. Now the Arabs are confirming this verse from the Talmud—that the Arabs are sheep and they should be killed like sheep, and that God's chosen people are the Jews, and they should prevail and the Arabs should kneel before them. The Arabs kneel before the Jews.

It is something that we cannot fathom— unexpected and unprecedented surrender. A state may fight, and when defeated, it surrenders. But those who did not fight and were further from the battlefield than anyone else are hastening to surrender and kneel. The issue has not been solved—the Palestinian people are still homeless outside Palestine. Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is a mayor of Gaza. Previously there was a Palestinian mayor in Gaza, Jerusalem, Jericho, Nablus, etc. [passage omitted] The Israelis will never accept the presence of a Palestinian state in the West Bank. This is because they know that a Palestinian may come and attack Tel Aviv and liberate the coast. Such a state will be considered too close. The Jews will not allow a Palestinian state. I received a message from Yasir 'Arafat addressed to the secretary of the Islamic Conference—he sent him the message and asked him to distribute among the member-countries; we received a copy. In it, Abu-'Ammar said the Jews have violated all the agreements. This is an official letter—Abu-'Ammar sent it to Abdou Diouf, the president of Senegal; the latter distributed the letter among us, saying: Abu- 'Ammar has asked me to distribute this letter among the member-countries. The letter said: The Israelis have abandoned all the agreements they signed with me, and have not implemented what I have agreed with them; I want to inform you that the Israelis have not honored their promises. This is expected. This means that the process has failed. All right, hasten recognition of the Israelis and open the bureaus and embassies and exchange visits and embrace the Israelis and do not embrace the Arabs— how come an Arab does not embrace an Arab but embraces an Israeli? This is shameful. Even the poor head of state of Kuwait sends me a letter saying that the situation of the Arab nation has become shameful. It has become shameful. An Arab no longer can trust an Arab, but seeks support from the enemy: Israel and the Americans. The policy of America in the region is to compel the Arabs to surrender to the Israelis—not to recognize Israel—surrender to the Israelis as they are the masters and we are the slaves. The Americans are using Arab states to play this role, abandoning their pan-Arab role and leadership of the Arab nation. There are Arab states which find themselves in a dilemma; they are between the hammer and the anvil; they are between their needs and their pan-Arab desire.

We should take a collection for the needy Arab states. We should not let them go to America for help; otherwise, America will impose on these states conditions in the interest of the Israelis. I am calling for an Arab summit, although regrettably I see the Arabs refusing to meet with each other, but quite capable of meeting with and embracing and kissing the enemy. The Arab nation

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now has in front of it quite clearly an invitation for an Arab summit to halt this collapse and this shame. This is unjustified. Quite definitely this nation has 1,000,000 soldiers; it has thousands of tanks and aircraft. It possesses huge capabilities. It controls Gibraltar and Bab al-Mandib and the Suez Canal and the Mediterranean—the entire southern coast of this sea belongs to the Arabs from Latakia to Nouadhibou; oil, manpower, iron, copper, gold, holy places, glorious history—all this is being destroyed and is disregarded. We are being cut to size and being asked to kneel before the Jews. All the pressures which the Libyan people are facing aim at making the Libyan people kneel with the rest of those kneeling. This is what made the Libyan people take to the streets and squares to declare its will: that it accepts the challenge and rejects surrender. This was done thanks to you, these historic people's commands. Many happy returns.

Cuban Envoy Praises Ties, Condemns U.S. 'Imperialism'

LD0609205394 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] The Cuban ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah has congratulated the Libyan Arab people and the leader of the great 1 September revolution on the 25th anniversary of the revolution. In a news conference today, he stressed that relations between the peoples of the Great Jamahiriyah and Cuba are excellent despite the great distance between them.

The Cuban ambassador expressed his appreciation for the Libyan Arab people's solidarity with the Cuban people and emphasized that only the peoples that struggle and stand firm in the face of aggression and pressure cannot be defeated.

In his news conference, which he devoted to a review of the latest developments between his country and the American Government, he stressed that his country cannot submit to the conditions of imperialism and colonialism. He indicated that the Cuban people hold no enmity against the American people, but Cuba believes that the American people are pawns of the aggressive policy of the American Government.

The Cuban ambassador stressed the need for the peoples of the world to unite in the face of the unipolar policy that is attempting to gain control over the world. He indicated that there is a small group of states that controls the so-called Security Council and that wants to establish this policy in order to determine the world's future in their interest.

He emphasized that his country's policy stresses the support and development of the Nonaligned Movement because, as he said, it is an importance force inside the United Nations and its security organizations, particularly the Security Council.

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Algeria Asked To Allow Transport of Trapped Citizens

LD0709003994 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation announced today that Moroccan authorities have taken necessary measures to provide all assistance and support to Moroccan citizens trapped at the border checkpoint of (Akid Lutfi).

The spokesman added that Moroccan authorities have asked Algerian authorities to allow them to send a ship to the nearest Algerian port, as was done for Moroccan citizens on the Tunisian-Algerian border.

The spokesman said that the Moroccan authorities were waiting for a response from the Algerian authorities to carry out this operation.

'Rift' With Algeria Not To Affect Gas Pipeline

LD0209125394 Rabat MAP in English 1245 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Morocco, Spain, Cairo, Sep 2 (MAP)— The political situation presently prevailing in the Maghreb region and the rift between Algeria and Morocco will not harm the Maghreb-Europe gas pipeline, spokesman of the Spanish Foreign Department to London-based Arabic daily AL HAYAT.

The spokesman added that the construction works are proceeding normally and in 1996, it is projected to start pumping 7,600 cubic meters of gas.

On his part, president of the managing board of the Spanish 'Enagaz' company which invested 1.540 billion US dollars in the project said he does not think that the recent events will have an impact on the project as several European countries are contributing to it. In addition, he explained, both Algeria and Morocco will draw considerable benefit from the project.

The pipeline is to convey Algerian gas from the wells of Hassi Rmel to Europe via Morocco and Gibraltar.

King Hassan Receives Tunisian, Jordanian Emissaries

LD0309085894 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II yesterday evening at the Royal Palace in Rabat received President Ben Ali's special envoy, Tunisian Minister of Youth and Childhood Abderrahim Zouari. The meeting was attended by Abdellatif Filali, prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and Mohamed Saad, Tunisian ambassador in Rabat, .

His Majesty also received Kasim Marwan, political adviser and special envoy of King Husayn of Jordan, yesterday evening at the Royal Palace in Rabat.

During the meeting the Jordanian envoy handed his majesty a private message from King Husayn of Jordan. The meeting was attended by Abdellatif Filali, prime minister and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation.

France Arrests Members of 'Fundamentalist' Group

LD0609135394 Rabat MAP in English 1317 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Paris, 6 Sep (MAP)—Eight 'fundamentalist' persons arrested in connection with ongoing investigation in France and Morocco on the armed attack against a hotel in Marrakesh, were declared guilty of 'association of wrongdoers connected to a terrorist organization'.

Two of the persons found guilty by Jean Louis Bruguiere, a French investigating judge specialized in terrorism cases, were arrested last Thursday [1 September] in Paris and Paris suburbs while the others were arrested in central France. Some of the arrested persons said new members of 'a commando' were trained to shooting in special training sites in France. Investigators found in the houses of the arrested persons documents of the Islamic Salvation Army 'AIS' and literature of the Islamic Salvation Front (Algerian banned party).

According to French daily 'LE MONDE', the French police opened an investigation on the exact site of the training camps where some of the 27 arrested individuals said they took shooting lessons. The same source said the man believed to be one of the leaders of the French-Moroccan network born in Morocco in 1960 is wanted by the police.

Some of the individuals arrested recognized they went to Afghanistan to perfect their training. Investigators have not yet found the exact site where the training takes place.

Other Arab States May Follow Move on Israeli Ties

MM0209140094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Sep 94 pp1, 4

[Reports by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT bureau in Rabat and Muhammad Sadiq in Washington: "Other Arab States Might Follow Rabat's Step; Limited Diplomatic Relations Between Morocco and Israel"]

[Excerpts] Morocco has decided to establish limited diplomatic relations with Israel by opening a liaison office to look after Moroccan interests in Tel Aviv, with Israel opening a liaison office in Rabat to look after Israeli interests. [passage omitted]

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from political sources that other Arab states, including a Maghreb state, might follow Morocco's suit by opening a liaison office in Israel.

Moroccan sources have denied any knowledge that other Arab states might follow Morocco's step, but they did not rule out the possibility that some Arab states are thinking along those lines.

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Moroccan political sources said that the Moroccan step was part of a Moroccan strategy drawn up 25 years ago as a contribution to the peace process. The move, they added, is just a new step in support of the Palestinian position and in consolidation of the Moroccan influence in the interest of the cause.

The Moroccan sources denied any intention at present to turn this office into an embassy. [passage omitted]

Sudan

Minister Claims Hala'ib Attack Part of Western Plot

EA0609144394 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] The first vice president of the Republic, Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, held a meeting with the government of Red Sea State yesterday. The meeting was also attended by Defense Minister General Hassan 'Abd-al-Rahman; and Lieutenant Colonel Ibrahim Shams al-Din, an adviser at the Presidency of the Republic.

During the meeting, Major General al-Zubayr gave a briefing on the central government's proposals to the state governments and the role these governments need to play toward their citizens in such areas as the provisions of services, the establishment of federal rule, and the reduction of the influence of the administration by spreading consultation among the citizens, so that people power is achieved. His excellency then touched on the role of the popular committees in enlightening citizens on their rights and duties.

Defense Minister General Hassan 'Abd-al-Rahman then spoke and confirmed that the Hala'ib issue was a political one and was part of the Western design under the so-called new world order. He said that Sudan was well aware of this design and would deal with it in a manner that would confirm its right to that territoriy. His excellency said that the provocations were intended to divert the government away from its civilizational scheme.

Vice President, British MP's Discuss Federalism

EA0609182394 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Police Major General George Kongor Arop, the [second] vice president of the Republic, met this morning at his office in the Republican Palace with the visiting British parliamentary delegation, which he briefed on the government's effort to introduce comprehensive peace in the south of the country. He stressed the government's eagerness to achieve stability and development in the south. He also touched on the initiative being undertaken by the government toward equitably distributing power and resources through federalism and the new redivision of states. He said the southerners would now participate by way of federalism in the development of the war-affected areas and internecine fighting. He said all Sudanese in the country desired peace. His excellency emphasized the need for peace and stability to achieve comprehensive development in the country.

Thousands Demonstrate Against 'Blasphemous' ICPD

EA0609162894 Nairobi KNA in English 1115 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Sep (KNA/PANA)—Thousands of demonstrators marched through the streets of the Sudanese capital Khartoum Monday [5 September] protesting the Cairo United Nations Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] which started Monday in the Egyptian capital. The marchers went to the UN office here chanting slogans against the United States, against Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, the United Nations, and those Arab and Muslim leaders who back the conference and its recommendations.

A big banner carried by the marchers read "No to corruption and no to abortion" another said "Shame on the conference of sexual freedom."

When they reached the UN office the marchers handed a memo to the resident representative saying the Sudanese workers reject the population conference. The march signalled the climax of a hectic government media campaign against the conference. It drew support from the Sudanese trade unions federation, student and women's organizations.

The government has condemned the Cairo event as "the conference of homosexuals and abortion mongers." A religious fatwa, or doctrine by the country's religious Islamic university (the Koran University) late last week described the Cairo conference as blasphemous and said Muslims who agreed to its recommendations should be considered "infidel to Islam." This, it said, was because the conference is advocating homosexuality, premarital sex between the young. It charged that the conference called for lifting restrictions on abortions and was seeking to reduce the population of the Muslim world "so that the infidel West remains stronger than the Muslim nation."

Sudan has boycotted the conference and the Sudanese media had been continuously praising those countries which have refused to attend.

State, Governorate Appointments Announced

EA0609182894 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Summary] The following have been appointed to state and governorate posts and will be sworn in today before President al- Bashir. They include Dr. al-Amin Dafa'allah, minister of agriculture and animal health in the State of Kassala, who will also act as governor; Dr. Khalil Ibrahim Muhammad, minister of education and orientation in the State of Northern Darfur; Mr. Abdullah al- Tuhami, governor of (Kamlin) Governorate; Mr. Ahmad 'Abd-al-Qadir Ahmad, governor of al-Jazirah; and Mr. al-Hadi Ahmad Khalifah, governor of al-Manajil.

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Kuwait

Jordanian Diplomat Expects Normal Ties 'Very Soon'

JN0409194294 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] The first Jordanian diplomat to visit Kuwait in four years held talks with Kuwaiti officials on a number of issues, including Jordan's Embassy in the Gulf country.

Counselor Mashhur al-Zabn, who arrived in Kuwait last night, met with the undersecretary of Kuwait's Foreign Affairs Ministry, Sulayman Majid al-Shahin. He said they discussed a number of issues of mutual interest, but did not elaborate.

Mr. al-Zabn is on a four-day visit to Kuwait to inspect Jordan's embassy, closed since the Gulf crisis.

He was quoted today by AL-SIYASAH daily as saying he had received a warm welcome, and that he found Kuwaiti officials understanding. He said he expected relations to return to normal very soon.

Meets Foreign Ministry Official

JN0709121094 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 4 Sep 94 p 1

[Report by Anwar Ahmad]

[Text] Jordanian envoy Mashhur al-Zabn, a counselor at the Jordanian Foreign Ministry, has said that his visit to Kuwait is technical in nature and is aimed at inspecting his country's embassy, which was closed four years ago, as well as "discussing a number of issues of common concern to the two countries."

In a statement to AL-SIYASAH, al-Zabn said that he conveyed the greetings of the minister of state for foreign affairs in the Jordanian Kingdom to Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

He added: "Immediately after my arrival, I met with Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin and discussed with him a number of issues of common concern." He added: "We hope that there will be mutual visits between officials in Jordan and Kuwait in the near future, pointing out that Jordan is a country that is open for all Arabs."

The Jordanian envoy said: I consider Kuwait my second country and I felt here as if I were among my people and friends.

Al-Zabn asserted that he will accurately convey to the officials in Jordan the viewpoints he heard on several important issues he discussed with Kuwaiti officials. He added: I was accorded a warm welcome and was received with open-mindedness by the Kuwaiti officials. He said that he will convey all impressions and points of view to the Jordanian Government in order to clarify several issues.

Al-Zabn said he will visit the building of the Jordanian Embassy and the ambassador's residence tomorrow morning (today). He added that the Foreign Ministry officials have made all the necessary arrangements in this regard and that he will later discuss the technical procedures related to this issue with the officials .

Counselor al-Zabn extended his thanks to the Kuwaiti officials for the warm reception he was accorded in Kuwait.

The Jordanian envoy arrived in Kuwait at noon yesterday on a visit of several days. He was received at the airport by the director of the office of Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Paper Urges King Husayn To Change Iraq Policy

JN0209145494 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 31 Aug 94 p 32

["Read Between the Lines" column by Sa'ud al-Samakah: "We Do Not Want To Embarrass His Majesty the King"]

[Text] If His Majesty King Husayn is interested in the Arab situation in general, and in cooling the hot situation in the Gulf region in particular, then the amount of water in the Jordanian jug can no doubt have a great influence, if his majesty the king chooses to do so. The pillars that support the tyrant's regime in Iraq are not as strong as the Jordanian pillar. Therefore, shaking this pillar even slightly would force the Iraqi regime to heed the voice of justice and comply with the resolutions of international legitimacy.

His Majesty King Husayn "missed" a chance to prevent the 2 August disaster brought about by the Iraqi regime to hurt Kuwait and the entire Arab community. Excuse me, Your Majesty, when I say "missed" because the Kuwaitis have been greatly shocked by the Jordanian position. We wish his majesty the king would really work to stop the bleeding in the nation's body.

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is a sovereign, independent state. It has an established political system, a community, traditions, geographic location, and economic and educational systems. It is also a member in Arab and foreign organizations. Is it possible to overlook all these elements, remove the country from the map in a flash, and ravage its population and institutions? If such a thing should happen, God forbid, what would the attitude of his majesty and the Jordanian people then be toward the Kuwaitis had they adopted a supportive stand toward the perpetrator of this criminal act and supported him in international forums?

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We do not want to embarrass his majesty the king by asking such a question. Nor do we want to disturb him. However, our eagerness to promote inter-Arab relations and rid them of their miserable situation prompts us to encourage any step in this direction. Since the Jordanian leadership—according to its recent and repeated statements—is eager to embrace this approach; since we are a major part of the Arab community, just like Jordan; and because we were the victims of a criminal act that resulted in the deterioration of the situation in the Arab arena, we want to be sure about any plan put forward by Amman in this connection. The truth is as clear as daylight. We have certain rights, and the Iraqi people have rights that should be delivered by the Iraqi regime in line with the international resolutions. The Iraqi regime must fully comply with these resolutions. For us, our rights are summed up in the following: borders, recognition, prisoners, and reparations.

If Jordan truly wants to have the Iraq blockade lifted, then it should work within the framework of these resolutions. This requires a totally different policy from the policy that has been adopted by Amman since 2 August 1990.

His Majesty King Husayn is definitely aware of the requirements of the new policy. We want to note here that any further disobedience on the part of the Iraqi regime of Security Council resolutions will cause further deterioration in the Arab situation, of which Jordan is a part. In addition, the Iraqi people's suffering and the mass murder committed by the tyrant against his people will increase. Will Jordan begin, albeit late, to take measures in the right direction, stop being a supporting pillar of the corrupt regime in Iraq, and devote its efforts to establishing justice?

Paper Rejects Egyptian Mediation With Iraq

JN0509142294 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 1 Sep 94 pp 1, 19

[Editorial: "A Kuwaiti Word on Arab Mediation With Baghdad"]

[Excerpts] Informed Arab sources said Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has agreed to the return of Iraq, under its present leadership, to the Arab fold through the Cairo gate following "Saddamist" promises to recognize the State of Kuwait and return its POW's. While we are fully aware of the pan-Arab feelings behind the Egyptian President's efforts to revive Arab solidarity, and while we absolutely trust the Egyptian president's intentions, especially since his appeals—over 30 in number—to the Iraqi ruler in support of the Kuwaiti rights are still vivid in our memory, we believe that there is no room whatsoever for any mediation, regardless of its source or motive, with the present Iraqi leadership.

This Kuwaiti concept is not—as might be perceived by some—a spontaneous reaction following the horrors Kuwait experienced right from the early hours of 2 August 1990 at the hands of the ruling clique in Baghdad. On the contrary, this concept is based on facts drawn from experience and confirmed by events. [passage omitted]

In view of the reported new mediation with the Iraqi regime, the following questions arise:

—How can we trust this regime after all its treason and perfidy? What has changed in the Iraqi leadership to prompt "mediators" to reestablish contacts with it? What are the elements of confidence that have all of a sudden emerged?

What is more important is that if the Iraqi regime is willing to respond to the demands of the international legitimacy, which are the documented recognition of Kuwait as an independent and sovereign state, the approval of the Security Council resolution on the demarcation of borders between the two countries, the return of prisoners held in Iraqi prisons, and the payment of reparations for the destruction and looting of the people's property due to the invasion, why does such response not come through the United Nations so that this international organization will be an eyewitness after it was an arbiter?

We, in AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, beg forgiveness from the "Arab mediators" while emphasizing again and again that their intentions are not being questioned by us and that their pan-Arab feelings are part of the constants that are firmly established in our belief. However, allow us to ask the following question: What if the ruler of Baghdad returned to his old methods and betrayed you and reneged on all his pledges and obligations?

Do you think we can once again get the support of the world if we ignore it and disregard its international organization? We are confident that the world would then turn its back on us and none would blame it. Finally, it is our firm belief that "whoever tests what was tested before is bound to regret it."

Oman

Iranian Foreign Minister Holds Meetings, Departs

Received by Sultan Qabus

LD0509202994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 5 Sep 94 bilateral relations and regional and international cooperation was asserted during a meeting between Iran's Foreign Minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and Sultan Qabus. At the meeting, which took place today in Oman, Mr. Velayati submitted a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Sultan Qabus.

Sultan Bin-Sa'id Qabus thanked our country for its efforts in expanding and strengthening relations with Oman and other countries of the Persian Gulf. He

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described the Islamic Republic of Iran's spirit of cooperation, understanding, and good will in regional cooperation as important for security and stability in the region. The Omani king [as heard] also stressed his country's desire to strengthen relations with our country in various spheres, and said that Oman believes firmly in expanding relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Sultan Qabus described the repercussions of the crises which have previously afflicted the region as unfortunate for the region, and expressed the hope that the bitter experiences of the past would not be repeated, and that through cooperation between neighboring countries the region would witness security, peace, and stability.

Mr. Velayati described bilateral relations between our country and Oman, and cooperation with our Persian Gulf neighbors, as good. Expressing his happiness about the ending of the Yemeni civil war, he stressed the need for cooperation between the Islamic countries of the region in order to maintain stability and unity in Yemen.

The Iranian foreign minister emphasized the need to continue and expand the existing cooperation between Islamic countries regarding the problems and difficulties of the world of Islam, and added that Islamic countries could, with each other's help, safeguard the Muslims' resources and expand the level of their cooperation on the international scene.

Mr. Velayati arrived in Oman today, heading a senior political delegation at the official invitation of his Omani counterpart.

Meets With Omani Counterpart

LD0609214194 Tehran IRNA in English 1906 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Doha, Sept. 6, IRNA—Security and the latest developments in the Persian Gulf region as well as the Iranian and Omani bilateral ties were reviewed in a meeting in Muscat between Iranian foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his Omani counterpart Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah on Tuesday [6 September] morning.

Expressing his country's views regarding the security in the important and strategic region of the Persian Gulf, Bin-'Alawi called for an Iranian active role in preserving peace and stability in the region.

He emphasized the existing cooperation between the two countries and called for expansion of relations between the two sides.

Velayati in turn elaborated on the the viewpoint of the Islamic Republic of Iran on preserving peace and stability in the Persian Gulf region and termed the Iranian and Omani relations as an example of good relations between two neighboring countries in the Persian Gulf region.

He also called for multilateral cooperation and productive relations among the regional states to reach a common ground.

Holds News Conference

JN0609143694 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] His Excellency Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his accompanying delegation left the country today following an official two-day visit to the Sultanate of Oman. During the visit, Dr. Velayati had the honor of meeting His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id. The Iranian foreign minister also held talks with several Omani officials.

This morning, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati held a news conference at the Qasr al-Bustan Hotel. Yusuf Bin-'Alawai Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affair, also attended.

Yusuf Bin-'Alawi began the news conference by welcoming the Iranian minister and his delegation. He said that Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati yesterday conveyed an oral message from His Excellency Iranian President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id. The message deals with the developing bilateral ties between the Sultanate and Iran.

Bin-'Alawi added: Dr. Velayati's visit is part of the regular visits between the two ministers. It was an opportunity to exchange views on several bilateral, regional, and international issues, particularly since the world is witnessing sweeping changes that, no doubt, have a great influence on our countries and region.

The minister of state for foreign affairs asserted in his speech that the views of the Sultanate and Iran on these issues were identical. He added: We do not feel here in the Sultanate of Oman that it is difficult to work together with our brothers in Iran in the regional or international arenas, or within the context of bilateral ties.

His Excellency Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati then spoke about his visit to the Sultanate and his meeting with His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id. Dr. Velayati emphasized the strong ties between the Sultanate and Iran. He also said that Omani-Iranian relations are long-standing, cordial, and brotherly and based on good-neighborliness. We customarily exchange visits to exchange views and hold consultations on bilateral ties and regional and international issues to coordinate on these matters.

Dr. Velayati said these relations must be a good example for relations between countries. The Iranian minister also asserted that views were identical during the talks he held with the Omani officials. He also said that there was full agreement on the need for cooperation in the region, and that there should be no tension in it.

Dr. Velayati called for resuming the dialogue between Iran and the United Arab Emirates to deepen understanding and resolve the problems between them over the three islands of Abu-Musa, Tunb al-Sughra, and Tunb al-Kubra.

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Regarding the Middle East peace process, Dr. Velayati asserted that his country will continue to support the Palestinians until they regain all of their national rights.

At the conclusion of the news conference, Dr. Velayati called for lifting the international economic embargo imposed on the Iraqi people.

More on Comments on Iraqi Embargo

NC0609161494 Paris AFP in English 1549 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Muscat, Sept 6 (AFP)—Iran called here Tuesday [6 September] for the United [States to] establish good relations with its former enemy.

Iran wants "the lifting of the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people," Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said at the end of a 24-hour visit to Oman.

His statement to journalists came amid efforts by Baghdad to persuade the UN Security Council to lift the oil embargo imposed when Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Velayati said Tehran hoped to "establish good relations with Baghdad within the framework of international resolutions and contribute to a solution of the problems facing the Iraqi people."

Relations between Iran and Iraq have remained strained since the end of the 1980-1988 war. Both sides have accused the other of still holding prisoners of war and of harbouring dissident groups opposed to their governments.

Velayati highlighted Iraq's importance in the region "despite the numerous difficulties facing the country within its borders."

Meanwhile, the minister also called for talks between Iran and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on their dispute over the strategic island of Abu Mussa in the southern Gulf.

Negotiations on Abu Mussa broke down in September 1992 after the UAE raised the issue of two other disputed islands, the Greater and Lesser Tunb.

Official Receives Message From Iraqi Finance Minister

JN0309202794 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1955 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Muscat, 3 Sep (INA)—Qays al-Zawawi, Omani deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, has received a written message from [Iraqi] Finance Minister Ahmad Husayn.

The Iraqi ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman relayed the message when the Omani deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs received him today.

During the meeting, aspects of fraternal bilateral cooperation and several issues of common interest were discussed.

Paper Gives Names of Arrested Islamic Movement Members

JN0709064794 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji in London]

[Text] A prominent source in the Omani Islamic Movement has expressed optimism over an end to the crisis between his movement and the Omani authorities. He was referring to the halt to the arrests and interrogations and to the release of most detainees "although they are still under house arrest."

In a telephone talk with AL-HAYAH made from a Gulf state, the source expected that "the [Omani] authorities will reconsider their position after it was revealed to them that the brothers have not used, and will not use, violence, and that they do not have foreign contacts, and also that they care for national unity." He asserted that there has been "real detente" over the past three days.

The official, who asked to remain anonymous, pointed out that the movement is convinced that the Omani Government made the arrests after receiving certain information. He said: "During their house searches, they were looking for evidence to confirm this information, most importantly that the movement is an armed one, so they dug up the gardens of some houses in search of arms caches. Fortunately, when the authorities became confident that this information was incorrect, the arrests and searches eased, and they stopped storming houses. The authorities now telephone anyone they want to speak with, requesting him to report for interrogation." The official voiced the Omani Islamists' readiness to cooperate with the state in order to resolve the current problem.

AL-HAYAH has obtained a list of the most prominent detainees or those who are now under house arrest after having been released. They are:

—Talib Miran, a former Omani Air Force commander. According to Omani sources, he was prematurely pensioned off because of his Islamic tendencies. He is from the capital, Muscat, and is still detained.

—Ahmad al-Rasi, Oman's ambassador in Washington. He was summoned in early June, arrested, and interrogated. He is currently under house arrest. He is from the eastern region in Oman, and was formerly Oman's ambassador to Italy.

—Musallam Salim al-Qutun, Agriculture Ministry under secretary. He is from Dhofar, and completed his post-graduate studies in the United States.

—Khamis al-Kayyumi, Trade and Industry Ministry under secretary for industry affairs. He is from the

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Batin area and belongs to the Ibadhites' sect. This shows that the arrests did not have a sectarian dimension. He graduated as a civil engineer from the King Sa'ud University in Riyadh.

—Engineer Khalid Hilal al-Hashimi. He was working for the Education Ministry, and is still detained.

—Three members of the al-Ghazali family; namely, Muhammad, Hamid, and Salim al-Ghazali—the latter is a well-known merchant whose shops were sealed, were arrested together with a number of their employees. The al-Ghazali family is accused of being the movement's main financial backer. Gulf sources in Dubayy and Kuwait say that Salim al-Ghazali used to regularly send donations to Gulf charities, donating an annual average of $350,000. His brother, Hamid, is a member of the Chamber of Commerce. There is another Salim al-Ghazali, who is their cousin and a former trade and industry minister. He has nothing to do with what is taking place, so he was not questioned.

—An unnamed captain of a warship who was interrogated. A number of the ship's crew were also interrogated.

—Muhammad al-Ghilani, a doctor and a university professor.

—Hafiz al-Rajihi, an activist from the eastern region.

Several Jordanian and Egyptian university professors were also arrested, the most prominent being Dr. Ahmad Baha'al-Din, professor at the Faculty of Engineering. He was placed under house arrest and was not allowed to leave for his country as he has requested.

The Islamic official said that he cannot cite a specific reason for this campaign and that all that is being said is just personal opinions and interpretations. He added: We restricted our activities to the Islamic call and to encouraging people to behave in accordance with Islamic teachings. We used to adopt stands on political and social issues in Oman, and we also used to explain our stand on these issues in closed circles, small gatherings, and in letters that were circulated among a select audience. It seems that one of these letters drew the Omani authorities attention and made them deal their recent blow against the movement.

The Islamic official added: In a letter it distributed to its members last April, the movement spelled out its stand on the development conference that was held within the peace process framework and that Israeli officials attended. The Israelis also held official and private meetings with ranking state officials. The movement rejected these meetings and called on its members to confront normalization between Israel and Oman and to explain the dangers that this entails. It is known that many of those arrested are mosque preachers and teachers.

The Omani official believes that the authorities got wind of the letter and the first arrests were made on Saturday, 29 May, in the capital, Dhofar, and al-Buraymi. Those suspected of being the movement's leaders were arrested. He said: Most of the arrests were made at midnight in intimidating conditions as troops besieged houses and helicopters overflew the area. It seems that they were afraid that the brothers would put up armed resistance. But, nothing of the sort took place. They meticulously searched the houses and even turned up the soil in some of the gardens. Perhaps they were told that we had weapons caches. He said that the security forces took all the books and papers they found in the houses they searched. After this, the situation gradually abated and the security forces started to summon by phone those they wanted to interrogate.

The Omani authorities do not allow the establishment of voluntary societies like the reform societies in Kuwait. Lectures and cultural seminars are strictly controlled and are held under direct state supervision.

Qatar

Amir Receives Yemeni Official al-Zindani

JN0509065394 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the amir of Qatar, today received brother 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zindani, member of the Presidential Council, and the accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, the brother member of the Presidential Council delivered a letter to his highness the amir of Qatar from brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council. The letter deals with brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries and means to reinforce these relations to serve the interests of both fraternal countries and their peoples.

The brother member of the Presidential Council briefed his highness the amir of Qatar on the latest developments on the Yemeni arena and Yemen's efforts to contain the repercussions of the war ignited by the agent secessionist traitors. He commended the brotherly stand adopted by fraternal Qatar and its people, which will remain a distinguished mark in history. He also congratulated him on fraternal Qatar's national day. The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, the heir apparent.

Brother 'Abd-al-Majid al-Zindani arrived in Doha today on a visit to fraternal Qatar. He was received at Doha Airport by Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Khalid, minister of endowments and Islamic affairs, a number of officials, and 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Jahhaf, our country's ambassador in Doha.

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Saudi Arabia

Defense Minister Views Ulema Decision on Conference

LD0609220394 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Excerpts] His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector-general, expressed his deep gratitude for the blessings of Islam, peace and security which God has bestowed upon the country.

After inaugurating a center and school for air defense forces in Ta'if, he made a press statement. [passage omitted]

When asked to comment on the Senior Ulema Council's decision on the population conference being held in Cairo, HRH Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud said: I believe that the Senior Ulema Council's decision is in line with Islamic shari'ah. The decision was not aimed at any particular person at all, but at the document which contained things that were to us apparently in violation of Islamic shari'ah and because of that, being aware of these matters is every Muslim's religious and sacred duty.

As for relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with the Egyptian people and their leadership, there are no ambiguities in them and we must not cast doubt on these good and distinguished ties.

Yemen

'Fierce Clashes' Reported in Abyan

LD0609213194 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] There is news from Aden that fierce armed clashes are taking place in the southern Abyan Governorate between forces of the Yemeni Army and armed elements. The KUNA correspondent in Aden said that in these clashes, which are still going on, the forces of the Yemeni Army are using heavy weapons like tanks in an attempt to gain control of the situation there.

YSP Forms New Political Bureau; New Members Listed

JN0609081294 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Sep 94 pp 40, 33

["From Hasan Mayy in Sanaa"]

[Text] In confirmation of what AL-RA'Y has reported and expected, several sources of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] leaders, who are currently meeting in Sanaa, told AL-RA'Y that 'Ali Salih 'Abbad Muqbil was elected the new secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, replacing former Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid, who led the secessionist movement in Yemen.

The sources said the YSP meeting discussed expelling al-Bid from the party ranks, along with Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, who was appointed prime minister of the secessionist state; and Anis Hasan Yahya, who was appointed National Assembly speaker of that state.

The sources added that a decision on this was postponed when the idea did not receive an enthusiastic response from the party leaders. AL-RA'Y learned that a number of party leaders currently meeting in Sanaa hinted that they will quit the party if it does not expel the leaders responsible for the secession decision. The conferees decided to form a committee to investigate the secession announcement and to decide those responsible for it so that the party will be able to take the measures against those who contributed to the secession decision, in accordance with the bylaws of the party.

The YSP leaders who met in Sanaa condemned the secession as an unjustified historic mistake and attempt to redivide Yemeni land and people.

In its expanded meeting for the party leaders Monday morning, a new YSP Political Bureau was elected. The new bureau does not include any of the former bureau members or any of those who fled the country. The new Political Bureau is comprised of 23 members, including six old members who attended Sanaa meeting. [as published]

Following are the names of the new members: 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Qadir, 'Ali Salih Muqbil, Salim 'Umar Bakir, Yahya al-Shami, Ahmad al-Salami, Sa'id Salim Faraj, Muhammad Ghalib Ahamd, Ahmad Haydar al-Sa'id, 'Uthman 'Abd-al-Jabbar, 'Abdallah Baydar, Yahya Mansur Abu-Usba', Fadl Muhsin 'Abdallah, 'Abd-al-Bari Tahir, Husayn al-Hamzah, Salih Awad Sinan, Muhammad al-Shaybani, 'Ali Munsir Muhammad, Muhammad Sa'id Muqbil, Muhammad Sab'ah, 'Abd-al-Wahid al-Muradi, Salih Nasir Qatran, and Salim al-Khamishi.

The party will issue a political statement tomorrow on the decisions resulting from the meeting.

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Turkish Jets Reportedly Raid PUK Centers

NC0609171894 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Three Turkish warplanes and a helicopter gunship yesterday morning raided the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] centers in the area of Sharanish in Dahuk Governorate for two hours. The hostile raid did not cause casualties or damage. It should be recalled that this is the second such raid launched by Turkish military aircraft against PUK centers.

PUK Delegation Returns From Iran Visit

NC0609175794 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Excerpt] A Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] delegation comprising Najilan Mustafa and Feridon 'Abd-al-Qadir, PUK Political Bureau members; Muhammad Shakali, member of the command committee; and Muhsin 'Ali, deputy chief of the PUK organizations in al-Sulaymaniyah, returned to Kurdistan yesterday after a visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the visit the PUK delegation members held talks with senior Iranian Government officials. [passage omitted]

U.S. Air 'Surveillance' Activity Protested to UN

JN0409143294 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1030 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] Iraq has protested to the United Nations over the fresh Iraqi airspace violations committed by U.S. aircraft for purposes of surveillance and harassment, and to drop flares.

In a protest memorandum submitted to the UN secretary general yesterday, the Iraqi permanent representative to the United Nations asserted that the aforesaid aircraft violated Iraqi airspace during the period 21-31 August. During that period, he noted, they carried out 395 hostile air sorties, not to mention several reconnaissance flights and the dropping of flares.

The Iraqi permanent representative requested that the memorandum be circulated as a UN Security Council document.

Letter Protests 'Espionage' Flights

JN0609092094 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] United Nations, 6 Sep (INA)—Iraq has protested to the United Nations the continued violation of its airspace by the U.S. espionage plane U-2 under the pretext of carrying out aerial surveillance for the Special Commission. The plane took off from its base in Saudi Arabia.

In a message on this subject to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali, Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf said last August that this plane violated the Iraqi airspace four times, and flew for 16 hours over wide areas of Iraq.

He said the use of this plane in trespassing Iraqi airspace violates the objectives and principles of the UN Charter, which calls for respecting the principles and sovereignty of all member states. Furthermore, this plane is used for purposes other than those defined by the Security Council.

Yemeni Parliamentary Delegation Visits Baghdad

Delegation Arrives

JN0209122894 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1045 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 2 Sep (INA)—A delegation from the Yemeni House of Representatives, led by Deputy Speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, arrived today in Baghdad on a visit to Iraq at the invitation of the Iraqi National Assembly.

In a statement to INA, the head of the visiting delegation said the purpose of the visit is to strengthen ties of brotherhood and relations between the Yemeni House of Representatives and the Iraqi National Assembly. The two parliaments, he said, will sign a protocol for cooperation to exchange parliamentary expertise and to coordinate stands on the international and Arab levels.

He hailed the pan-Arab stand of the Iraqi leadership and people toward their brothers in Yemen and their support of the Yemeni unity and the action to foil the conspiracy that wanted to fragment that unity.

Cooperation Program Signed

JN0609120294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Sep (INA)—The Iraqi National Assembly and the Yemeni House of Representatives today signed a program for bilateral parliamentary cooperation.

For the Iraqi side, the program was signed by Ghanim 'Aziz Khadduri, deputy national assembly speaker, and for the Yemeni side, it was signed by 'Abd-al-Wahhab Mahmud, deputy speaker of the House of Representatives.

The program deals with ways of fostering cooperation between Iraq and Yemen in the interest of the two sisterly countries, coordinating positions, and following up developments in the Arab and international arenas.

Yemeni Ba'th Party Delegation Holds Talks

JN0509084894 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] A delegation of the Yemen Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, led by comrade 'Abd-al-Wahid Hawwash, deputy secretary of the Yemen Command, held talks tonight with comrade 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi, director of the Foreign Relations Bureau at the

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Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and a number of bureau members.

Talks dealt with bilateral ties, the situation in the Arab and international arena, and the latest developments in Iraq's relationship with the UN Security Council. Comrade 'Abd-al-Wahid Hawwash reiterated the Yemeni people's solidarity with the Iraqi people under the leadership of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn in their confrontation of the conspiratorial designs against Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity. He also praised Iraq's efforts to preserve Yemeni unity.

Joint Action Program Signed

JN0609171294 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1236 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Sep (INA)—The Iraq and Yemen Commands of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party signed a joint action program here today.

The program provides for exchanging visits by delegations, enhancing solidarity and joint Arab action, and coordinating positions at Arab and international conferences on fateful issues, particularly lifting the unfair blockade imposed on Iraq and safeguarding Yemen's unity.

The program was signed for the Yemen Command by 'Abd-al-Wahid Hawwash, deputy secretary of the command, and for the Iraq Command by 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi, director of the Foreign Relations Bureau at the Iraq Command.

Talks With Kuwaitis on MIA's Held in Geneva

JN0609200194 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 6 Sep 94

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[Text] Iran called on the United Nations to lift its four-year-old embargo imposed on Iraq for invading Kuwait. Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, on a visit to Oman, said that Baghdad should be part of any security structure in the region. He told reporters that Iraq has a vital role to play in the region, and that his country hopes that the United Nations will lift the embargo on the Iraqi people.

Velayati's remarks came as high-ranking Kuwaiti and Iraqi officials met to discuss the fate of 600 missing Kuwaitis. Iraq's Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs Riyad al-Qaysi headed Iraq's delegation, while Kuwait sent Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, who heads a search for the country's Gulf war missing. It was not clear whether Iraq's delegation provided any clues on their whereabouts during the private talks held at the Geneva headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Sudanese Minister Commends Iraqi Faith Campaign

JN0309142494 Baghdad AL-'IRAQ in Arabic 26 Aug 94 p 2

[Text] Education Minister Hikmat 'Abdallah al-Bazzaz yesterday met with Dr. Ibrahim Ahmad 'Umar, Sudanese minister of higher education. During this meeting, the minister reviewed the developments witnessed by the educational sector under the glorious July Revolution and the great attention given to scientific and educational institutions in Iraq by the leader President Saddam Husayn.

Dr. Ibrahim Ahmad 'Umar commended the great national faith campaign taking place in Iraq under the guidance of leader President Saddam Husayn, affirming that this campaign will contribute to building a faithful generation brought up in Arab and Islamic values and principles.

Paper Urges Turkey To Cooperate at Border

JN0309114894 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 26 Aug 94 p 2

["Standpoint" column by 'Adil Sa'd: "Sabotage Missions"]

[Text] The Turkish decision to enforce strict control on visits by Western missions to northern Iraq through Turkish territory contains more than one meaning. If the Turkish Government announced through its foreign minister, Mumtaz Soysal, that it does not want this region to become a passageway, this is because the Turkish decision has its justifications and reasons. Earlier, Iraq had pointed these out, calling for joint Iraqi-Turkish cooperation on them.

What is taking place in northern Iraq at the hands of the agent cliques is fraught with manifestations of political deterioration, decadence, and treason which are aimed solely at disrupting and subverting the region and turning it into an arena for bloody conflicts to ensure racist imperialist hegemony and the abandonment of national objectives. This would maintain the damage and the anomalous conditions and prevent citizens from turning to the legitimate requirements of national development, a situation which would encourage all types of anomalous and suspect manifestations.

What has happened and is happening at the hands of those agent cliques would not have taken such an odious, aggressive turn were it not for Western financial support and the influx of Western missions. These missions follow up developments in the region under the pretexts of upholding human rights and offering humanitarian aid. Their real aim is to plant and give a free hand to vagabonds and agents to go on rampages. Burglary, corruption, and lack of security are widespread both in northern Iraq and in the Turkish regions near the Iraqi border which westerners use as a passageway.

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It is now definite that the mafia gangs, drug traffickers, and agents who are associated with racist imperialist interests, are the sole beneficiaries of what is taking place there. Since the Turkish Government often complains about lack of security in those areas, the only solution is to guarantee security there and to enable the population to devote itself to legitimate daily activity. This will require Turkish-Iraqi cooperation within the context of common regional interests in order to remove the anomalous conditions caused by the blockade imposed on Iraq.

The restoration of open economic and political relations between Iraq and Turkey is a basic guarantee for preventing subversive activities and achieving real peace for both the Iraqi and Turkish peoples.

Praises Turkish Decision, Notes Interests

JN0609150794 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 1 Sep 94 p 2

["Standpoint" column by "political affairs" editor entitled "A Sound Decision"]

[Text] Many reasons have prompted the Turkish Government to decide to support the authority of the Iraqi Government in northern Iraq and not to take part in any move which would harm Iraq's sovereignty in the autonomous region.

The main reason for this decision stems from the historical, geographical, and political facts which cannot be compromised or tampered with. These facts indicate that the unity and cohesion of Iraq are the key to regional peace and a firm guarantee for the stability of neighboring countries. Conversely, any wagering outside this framework will inevitably gravely harm these countries, including Turkey.

Over the past four years, the Turks have experienced numerous political disturbances and insecurity, especially in the southwestern areas abutting Iraqi borders. They have also sustained considerable losses that severely harmed the structure of the Turkish economy. All of this was the result of the Turkish policy's departure from the logic of common interests with Iraq.

The safety, security, and future of Turkey are essentially contingent on the safety and security of its neighbors, at the head of which is Iraq. Thus, it is more reasonable for the current Turkish policy to seek to maintain Iraq's unity rather than exploit the vacuum in northern Iraq in the absence of the legitimate Iraqi authority there.

The Turkish decision to support the Iraqi Government in the autonomous region has served as a basis for another Turkish decision a few days ago to monitor Western delegations using Turkish territory as a passageway to the area held by agent and treasonous cliques. This decision, alongside the Turkish orientation toward restoring direct economic and trade ties with Iraq, is the right approach to political and cultural ties which must prevail between Iraq and its neighbors. The Turks have many international legal and legislative justifications that support their orientations in view of what was achieved in the Security Council, the size of regional and international changes that have taken place, and the meager compensation paid to Turkey for its implementation of the blockade policy.

Syrian-Turkish-Iranian Moves Against Unity Viewed

JN0409161694 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0704 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] Baghdad, 4 Sep (INA)—The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has said that the links connecting Syria, Turkey, and Iran to the Kurdish groups in northern Iraq and the encouragement these groups receive from these states to separate and rebel against the central authority is a direct action against Iraq's unity and sovereignty regardless of the given justifications.

In its editorial today entitled "Conferees or Plotters," AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Those who are shedding tears over Iraqi unity and who demand its preservation are themselves encouraging plots against this unity. It adds: Syria, Turkey, and Iran have links with the separatist groups in northern Iraq.

The paper notes that having thrown dust into the eyes by saying that they support Iraq's unity, these states are now effectively and officially taking the side of those who want Iraq to be divided; that is, the United States. They are asking Iraq to implement UN resolutions, pretending that they are unaware that Iraq has already implemented them.

The paper asks: Do the three states not know that by asking Iraq to implement UN resolutions, they demonstrate that they do not recognize the immense progress made in this direction, and that this justifies the U.S. aim of prolonging the blockade? Do they not know that extending the blockade is a measure aimed at destroying the Iraqi people and threatening their national unity?

The paper says: Everybody, including the illiterate and the halfwit, is now convinced that the origin of problems in northern Iraq, eastern Anatolia, Iran, and Lebanon, and wherever there is a Kurdish problem, lies in the open U.S. plans to use Kurdish elements to create a state of instability and division and to cause civil wars and exhaust the region's resources.

Concluding its editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH says: Are the champions of these conferences ignorant of these facts? Why do they continue to hold Iraq responsible for the continuation of the abnormal situation in northern Iraq and elsewhere? Is this not a direct and official contribution to the U.S. position?

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Saddam Chairs Cabinet Session; Industrial Progress Noted

JN0509083494 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has presided over the 17th session of the Council of Ministers. In this session, the council listened to a report submitted by Staff General Husayn Kamil Hasan, minister of industry and minerals, about some of the expansions and achievements of the ministry and its designing and research cadres in petrochemicals and in machines of various types and capacities. This will help advance various industries in the socialist and private sectors. He also discussed the recent expansion in batteries, and water pumps for agricultural purposes.

The minister of industry and minerals underlined the areas of development in the research and design centers. He said the blockade had sparked the energies and capabilities of the technical cadres toward comprehensive development in the industrial sector over the past two years. This progress, he added, could not have been achieved under normal conditions.

His excellency the president, may God protect him, congratulated industrial sector workers on their great accomplishments and pioneering efforts. The council then discussed the issues listed on its agenda, which included organizational matters, and adopted the necessary decisions.

Soldiers, Others To Be Executed for Theft

JN0609195694 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 30 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Sadiq Jabr]

[Text] AL-QADISIYAH has learned that on 25 August 1994, the Revolution Command Council [RCC] issued Decree No. 114 canceling Paragraph 2 of RCC Decree No. 59 of 4 June 1994 and substituting it with the following:

Punishment shall be by execution if the theft is carried out by a person carrying a weapon, visible or invisible, results in the death of a person, or if the perpetrator is affiliated with the Armed Forces, the Security Forces, or a state employee.

The decree provides that its provisions shall be applicable to the crimes that take place after its issuance and until further notice. It also provides that it shall be valid as of the date of its publication in the official gazette.

Two Officers Said Executed for Visits to Kurdistan

NC0209180494 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Citing reliable sources in Karkuk, KURDISTAN NWAY reports today that the Iraqi regime executed Colonel As'ad Shaykh Zaydani, Colonel Subhi Muhammad 'Ai, and citizen 'Abd-al-Razzaq Qadir on 3 August. The three were charged of repeatedly visiting the liberated areas of Kurdistan.

Reliable sources told the newspaper that these three people were arrested by the regime's gangs during the summer of 1993 and were bestially tortured in the regime's prison cells in Karkuk and Baghdad. According to the sources, the death sentence was passed against the victims on 17 June and they were executed on 3 August.

Government Reportedly Mutilates 800 Deserters

NC0509173294 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] In today's edition, the newspaper KURDISTAN NWAY, citing exclusive sources, reports that the Iraqi regime recently launched a large-scale campaign against deserters. The regime's henchmen launched the campaign in al-Basrah, rounding up 800 deserters. The paper's source asserts that the 800 deserters were sent to al-Jumhuri Hospital and Saddam Hospital in Baghdad, where they had their ears cut off and their foreheads branded with certain terms in accordance with a recent decision by the dictator to punish deserters from the ranks of the regime's forces.

Currency Dealings Banned Outside Licensed Offices

JN0609161394 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 1 Sep 94 p 4

[Text] The Revolution Command Council has issued a decree banning dealings in foreign currency outside the offices and commercial bank branches which have licenses to practice money changing. Following is the text of the decree:

The Republic of Iraq
The Revolution Command Council
Number of Decree: 125

Date of Decree: 21 Rabi' al-Awwal 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 28 August 1994

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate

Decree

Based on the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council [RCC] has decided the following:

1. Foreign currency which proves to be transacted outside the offices and commercial bank branches that have licenses to practice money changing shall be confiscated. In addition, the penalties stipulated in RCC Decree No. 74, dated 23 June 1994, shall be applied.

2. One percent of the confiscated currency shall be allotted to the one who arrests those dealing in foreign currency outside the licensed offices and bank branches.

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This percentage shall be equally divided between that person and the person who reported the violation.

3. This decree shall be implemented as of the date of publishing it in the official gazette and until further notice.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman

PUK-KDP Committee Issues Instructions to Media

NC0409174994 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1625 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Statement released by the Joint Information Committee of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, PUK, and the Kurdistan Democratic Party, KDP, on 1 September; place not given]

[Text] To media establishments of the PUK and KDP: The Joint Information Committee of the PUK and KDP met on 1 September and issued instructions intended to serve the normalization process in Kurdistan, to close the ranks of our people, and to foil the agents' hostile attempts. The committee requested all cadres working in all media fields in PUK and KDP establishments to comply with the following instructions with a high sense of responsibility:

1. Explain all decisions relating to the normalization process and ways of implementing them through all media channels and give them priority as regards place and time.

2. Emphasize the foundations that will unify our ranks and avoid all causes that stir dissension among us.

3. Explain the real dangers confronting our people's liberation march.

4. Refrain from raising previous issues or using inappropriate terms used by the other party [not further identified].

5. Abstain from announcing violations, because addressing such problems falls under the tasks of the normalization committees.

6. Emphasize our people's achievements and gains since the uprising [rebellion by Kurds against the Iraqi regime after its defeat by the Allied forces in the spring of 1991], noting that these achievements were the fruit of our unified ranks.

7. Elaborate on the importance of democracy and safeguarding human rights and public freedoms as a basic plank of the Kurdish liberation movement in Kurdistan, which was endangered by the Baghdad regime.

8. Follow up on reports on the possibility of lifting the economic sanctions on the Iraqi regime in order to enlighten the masses on the dangers facing our people.

9. Show continuous and outstanding interest in the citizens' problems and suffering in Kurdistan and explain the various aspects of their lives.

10. Praise the historical experiments of our Kurdish people that achieved historic gains thanks to the unity of our people's ranks, and foster the basic principles of the Kurdish liberation movement, noting the catastrophes and setbacks that beset our liberation movement as a result of internal differences and disputes.

[signed] Dr. Fu'ad Ma'sum, member of the PUK Political Bureau.

Dr. Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, member of the KDP Political Bureau.

Kurds' Normalization Committee Makes Proposals

NC0509184994 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1625 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] The Committee on Normalization of the Situation in Kurdistan held a meeting at the parliament building yesterday evening. The meeting was attended by Jawhar Namiq Salim, Kurdistan parliament speaker; Kawthar Rasul 'Ali, prime minister; 'Umar Fattah, representative of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK]; Fadil Miranu, representative of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP]; Ghanim Jawad, representative of the Unified Iraqi National Congress; 'Abd-al-Khaliq Zanghana, representative of the Kurdistan Toilers Party; Yulazim Yusuf Kanna, representative of the Assyriac Democratic Movement; Haydar Fayli, representative of the Kurdistan Communist Party; Kamil al-Hajj 'Ali, representative of the Islamic Movement.

The Committee released the following recommendations:

1. (?Request) that the Council of Ministers annul the measures of 1 June regarding the change of employees' posts and their workplace.

2. Return all employees in government establishments in Kurdistan to their workplaces for one week effective today, 5 September.

3. Prepare to return the headquarters of all parties to cities in Kurdistan in accordance with recommendations made during previous meetings.

4. Return all checkpoints and control posts to security, police, and government forces.

5. Demand that the Council of Ministers in Kurdistan order governors to return homes taken as a result of the recent events to their rightful owners.

6. Emphasize that the subcommittees on normalization of the situation will implement the Higher Normalization Committee's recommendations on the normalization of the situation in Kurdistan and inform them of the results of the steps taken.

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7. The Higher Committee on Normalization of the Situation positively assesses the meeting held yesterday with the Higher Military Committee. It should be recalled that the Higher Military Committee held a meeting yesterday that was attended by Jabbar Farman, PUK representative; Za'im 'Ali, KDP representative; Brigadier General Talal al-'Ubaydi, representative of the INC [preceding word in English]; (Dahman Harfi), representative of the Kurdistan Toilers Party; Dr. William Isha, representative of the Assyriac Democratic Movement; [name indistinct], representative of the Iraqi Communist Party; and 'Abd-al-Qadir (Brathi), representative of the Islamic Movement.

The military ad hoc committees on all axes submitted reports to the Higher Military Committee, noting the steps taken on these axes toward complete normalization of the situation in Kurdistan.

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Rabin Cited on Golan, Jerusalem, Other Issues

NC0309153994 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Cairo, 3 Sep (MENA)—Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has affirmed that Israel is willing, in principle, to withdraw from the Syrian Golan Heights in order to attain peace. He said he made this position clear during his talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and that the two agreed that the Syrian issue must be solved as one whole deal.

In remarks to the Egyptian press delegation that accompanied Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to Israel, Rabin explained Israel's views on outstanding issues. He said withdrawal from the Golan is different from Israel's earlier withdrawal from Sinai because the late President Anwar al-Sadat succeeded in convincing the Israeli people that Egypt, the largest Arab country, is willing and happy to make peace with Israel.

He added that President al-Sadat realized that Egypt was not taking a risk or doing anything adventurous when it established peace with Israel. He noted that this position is different from Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's stance which has failed to convince the Israelis that he really wants peace.

Regarding Jerusalem's status following the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli agreement, Yitzhaq Rabin said that the basic aim of the Madrid conference and the subsequent negotiations was to reach a comprehensive peace between Israel and its Arab neighbors and end the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

He added: We signed the Declaration of Principles with the Palestinians in Washington and later the Cairo Agreement pertaining to the Declaration's implementation. The Gaza-Jericho agreement was a first step. Last week we held negotiations in Cairo over expanding the Palestinian self-rule in the spheres of education, health, tourism, taxes, and the environment.

The Israeli prime minister pointed out that two unresolved issues need to be sorted out before the agreement can become effective and the two sides can continue implementing it. He explained that the first issue pertains to the lack of political will on the Palestinian side to deal with Islamist extremists of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad who continue to carry out acts of terrorism while the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] does nothing about it.

Rabin said: I want to state clearly that we do not want to take any political measures against some Palestinians because this is not our business but the Palestinians must commit themselves to the establishment of stability in the areas controlled by the PLO. They have not done this.

He explained that the second unresolved issue is financing. He noted that the Palestinians are waiting for the donor countries to transfer $0.5 billion to the PNA. He added that talks have been going on for the past 10 months on this issue because democratic countries simply cannot transfer money without first receiving unambiguous budget figures from the Palestinians.

He added that as a result, the Palestinians suffer from lack of funds in Gaza and Jericho. He explained that the $0.5 billion were supposed to be used as salaries for the police and civilian employees and expenditure on infrastructure projects. The delay in transferring the money, Rabin said, is caused by the failure of the Palestinians and the donor countries to reach agreement. He said Israel is not part of this arrangement and is not responsible for it.

Rabin said he hopes an agreement will be reached during the donor countries' meeting in Paris on 9 September so that the Palestinian policemen will be able to bring their families to live with them and the projects can begin.

The Israeli prime minister added that the agreement with Jordan was easier because Jordan is a stable country and the Knesset approved the Washington Agreement with Jordan with a 91 percent majority out of the 96 percent of Knesset members who participated in the vote. He said this shows general Israeli consensus over the agreement with Jordan while, in contrast, the agreement with the Palestinians was approved by a majority of only one. He said the reason is that there is no solid proof that the PNA is willing to take measures against Hamas and Islamic Jihad extremists.

Commenting on full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, Rabin said: I was clear on this issue in my talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher and told him that we must solve the issue as one integrated deal involving certain frameworks and factors, notably the extent and timetable of the withdrawal, the extent of normalization of Israeli-Syrian relations, and security arrangements.

He explained that Sinai is a 250-km-wide open desert separating Israel from Egypt but the Golan Heights are close to Israel and therefore Israel cannot commit itself to withdrawal from this area unless the above-mentioned factors are fulfilled.

Rabin added: On comparison we find that President Hafiz al- Asad's attitude is the opposite of President Anwar al-Sadat's position. [Former Israeli Prime Minister] Menachem Begin had no wish to withdraw completely from Sinai but al-Sadat's actions created an Israeli desire for peace. We know that Syria allows the transport of weapons to militias in Lebanon and the Lebanese Government has not taken any measures against these anti-Israel militias.

To a question about the current status of Jerusalem and the settlements, Rabin said that the Palestinians must present their stand on these two issues for discussion. I do not wish to cause any misunderstanding. I know their stand and they know ours.

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Continuing, Rabin said: When we deal with the issue of Jerusalem we must take into consideration the political and religious aspects. Israel is vibrant and so is Jerusalem. Seventy-three percent of its population are Jews. They represent the majority and they have been living here for well over 200 [as received] years. We strongly believe that Jerusalem must remain united. It is a holy city not only to the Jews, but also to the Muslims and Christians. We must guarantee the freedom of religious practice for all religions.

The Israeli prime minister added: We will never prevent any Muslim, regardless of his nationality, from visiting Jerusalem to practice his religious rites. He pointed out that Israel is responsible for administering Jerusalem. However, Jordan has been giving financial aid to the Islamic holy places over the past 27 years. Jordan paid U.S.$10 millions to have the Dome of the Rock repainted with gold, Rabin added.

Rabin said: Accordingly, we said in the Israeli-Jordanian Declaration that we respect law in the holy places, but we did not find it necessary to mention in the Palestinian-Israeli Declaration that we give Jordan preference as far as religious affairs are concerned.

To another question on whether Israel is entitled to give preference in Jerusalem, Rabin said: We are responsible for Jerusalem before the entire world. I was born in Jerusalem and consequently we have the right to give preference.

Asked about the reason to hold a referendum concerning the withdrawal from the Golan Heights although this procedure was not applied to Sinai, Rabin said: The situations of Golan and Sinai are completely different and so are the situations between Egypt and Syria. President al-Sadat visited Israel and addressed the Knesset and succeeded in convincing the Israeli people.

As regards the Golan, I did not tell the Israeli people during the elections that I would withdraw from the Golan completely, contradicting all the previous Israeli governments. But I did say that if peace requires certain withdrawal I would need the Knesset's approval. He noted that this approval could be obtained through a referendum. If we have an agreement that would serve peace and establish stability, the majority of the people will approve it.

To a question on whether he expects that tangible progress will be attained on the Syrian-Israeli track in the wake of the upcoming visit to the region of the U.S. secretary of state, Rabin said peace with Egypt started through secret talks in Morocco. Similarly, the agreement with the Palestinians was finalized through secret talks in Oslo and so was the agreement with Jordan.

But the Syrians have so far refused to hold such talks, and this is the difference. During unofficial talks, each side could explain the main issues without putting them in official records. Both sides could also exchange opinions freely, Rabin added.

On the outcome of his recent talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, Rabin said: Our discussions dealt with the current situation concerning the peace process, particularly the developments in the Palestinian-Israeli track. He added that 'Amr Musa conveyed the Palestinian complaints and I presented the Israeli complaints. We discussed further details concerning the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations and the coordination regarding the multilateral negotiations in which Syria, Libya, Iraq, and Iran are regrettably not taking part.

Continuing, Rabin said: As for making the region free from mass destruction weapons, all the region's states must agree in this regard. However, in the absence of some states, we are only drafting a framework for the agreement.

Stresses Dangers Posed by 'Radical Islam'

TA0209133294 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Sep 94 p A10

[ITIM report]

[Excerpts] "The past year presented us with risks as well as chances for the new year," Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said last night. The prime minister was addressing graduates of a lengthy course at the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Interarm Command and Staff College. [passage omitted]

The prime minister spoke of a murky wave of radical Islamic terrorism, the likes of which the Arab and Muslim world has not encountered for a very long time. The threats made now, he said, may be acted on in the future. They constitute the main threat to the peace process and might breed war. This wave is being expressed here through Palestinian terrorism from the territories, which is mainly perpetrated by radical Islam—that is Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad, as well as Hizballah, which operates against us in Lebanon.

Rabin explained that so far, we have not experienced the phenomenon of a person setting out on a mission knowing that its success means his death. This is a different kind of terrorism, whether it comes from the territories or from Lebanon, and anyone who fails to understand this will not be able to deal with it effectively.

Rabin added that we have recently seen the wave of Islamic terrorism strike in Argentina and London and in attempts to attack Jewish institutions. This was a signal from radical Islam that it has a broad terror infrastructure and a long arm. "I suggest that we continue not to overlook such threats in the future as well," Rabin said, "and that we prepare appropriately for them."

The prime minister further said that the wave of radical Islam entails another threat: the destabilization of the regimes in moderate Arab countries. "A country that

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falls into the hands of radical Islam will no longer be a partner for talks with us," he clarified.

Rabin mentioned the IDF's deterrent power, saying that our Arab partners to the talks came to the negotiating table not because they saw the light of the Zionist vision but because they realized that they will attain nothing through violence, terror, and war. He again stressed that a strong army is a precondition for peace and a peace process. "I would not have taken some of the risks I took in the peace process without knowing that the IDF would come up with an appropriate answer to developments in an undesirable direction," he said.

Relays Message to Morocco's King Hassan

TA0409140694 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 4 Sep 94 p 7

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer]

[Text] Last weekend, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin thanked Moroccan King Hassan II for his decision to open liaison offices with Israel.

In a message Rabin sent the king, he wrote that the opening of Israeli-Moroccan liaison offices formalizes the extensive relations that have existed between Israel and Morocco over the years. In his message, Rabin mentions the warm relations formed between the Moroccan people and the community of Jews of Moroccan descent.

Prime Minister Rabin will head an Israeli delegation to the international economic conference that will take place in Casablanca on 30 October. Rabin was invited to the conference together with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by a special envoy of King Hassan who recently visited Israel.

[Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 4 September on page 7 carries a report by Tamar Golan from Rabat, adding that in his message to the king, Rabin "explained the details of the agreements Israel and Jordan reached on the Jerusalem issue." "A knowledgeable source told MA'ARIV that Rabin's message, which was relayed by Rafi Edri, contained a letter to the head of Hassan's military bureau in which the prime minister clarified what was promised to King Husayn."]

Sarid, Ben-Eli'ezer Comment on Talks With Syria

TA0309200394 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Environment Minister Yosi Sarid has proposed to his Syrian counterpart to meet to discuss shared environment problems. Sarid warned that if there is no breakthrough in the talks with Syria in 1995, nobody knows what political conditions will exist afterward.

Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer said Israel made everything necessary clear to Syria prior to the negotiations. The minister was addressing a gathering of the International Center for Middle East Peace, held with the participation of Israeli and Palestinian public figures. Our correspondent Hezi Makhles brings this report:

[Begin Ben-Eli'ezer recording] Everything we had to declare has been declared—not necessarily by the prime minister—and I believe the message was clear and unequivocal. The Golan Heights was conquered for existential reasons, for vital, defense reasons. Should there be a formula or reality that guarantees 100-percent defense, I believe it will be very difficult to confront this issue without putting a clear-cut answer on the table. The problem is that to this very day, we have not heard a single clear pronouncement on what Syria is prepared to do. [end recording]

Poll Shows Majority Support for Golan Withdrawal

TA0209171794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] A poll conducted by Haifa University shows that over the past year, approximately 25 percent of Israelis have changed their position on a Golan Heights withdrawal and joined those who support some kind of withdrawal. The poll was conducted on behalf of Qol Yisra'el by Haifa University's unit for statistical advice. It shows that approximately 64 percent of Israelis agree to some kind of withdrawal on the Golan Heights in return for arrangements with the Syrians: 27 percent of those polled support total withdrawal and 37 percent support a partial withdrawal. The poll's director, Dr. Avner Levi, told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that approximately 30 percent do not agree to any Golan withdrawal.

Foreign Ministry's Bentzur Discusses Ties With U.S.

TA0209134294 Tel Aviv DAVAR (DVAR HASHAVU'A supplement) in Hebrew 2 Sep 94 pp 12, 13, 28

[Report on interview with Eytan Bentzur, Foreign Ministry deputy director general, by Moti Bassok; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Eytan Bentzur, the Foreign Ministry deputy director general, is one of the founders of the "Madrid process" launched in October 1991, which marked the beginning of the breakthrough in Israel's relations with its neighbors. [passage omitted]

He has several other weighty positions: He is in charge of the North American desk at the Foreign Ministry, its most important desk; he is a special adviser to President 'Ezer Weizman; he is in charge of the disarmament issue, of interreligious affairs, and of the International Cooperation Department at the Foreign Ministry. In addition, Eytan Bentzur is the deputy chief Israeli delegate to the peace talks with Jordan and to the trilateral economic talks with Jordan and the United States. Along with the

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Defense Ministry director general, Bentzur heads the Israeli delegation to the arms control committee talks in the framework of the multilateral peace process. [passage omitted]

[Bassok] Do you endorse the very popular view that the Clinton-Christopher administration is very friendly toward Israel, much more so than the Bush-Baker administration?

[Bentzur] Contrary to the opinion of many, I have always contended that the Bush-Baker administration was not disadvantageous for Israel. To wit: David Levi, then foreign minister, found the right way to conduct a most effective dialogue with Secretary of State James Baker. The understanding between Levi and Baker facilitated the negotiations on the "Madrid formula," which Baker proceeded to promote efficiently and with enormous determination, thereby launching the historic breakthrough we are experiencing today. He did so in the face of opposition and numerous attempts to thwart his endeavors. The Bush administration has the credit for inaugurating the peace process between us and our neighbors, a process which stands a genuine chance of culminating in a comprehensive peace agreement.

As for the Clinton-Christopher administration, it is definitely friendly and sensitive to Israel's problems; it sincerely wants to promote the peace process, while distributing its energy resources and arranging priorities differently from the previous administration. Personally, I appreciate U.S. President Bill Clinton's efforts to build up American society and the U.S. economy on the basis of his awareness that a thorough review of the situation and social reforms are a precondition for the United States to be able to carry out its role and its vocation in the future.

[Bassok] What is the U.S. role in the political negotiations? It is a fact that we achieved peace with the Palestinians and the Jordanians without U.S. intervention. In the breakthrough with Egypt as well, the United States was out of the picture from the outset.

[Bentzur] We should be grateful that the United States is what it is, with its values, its generosity, the moral integrity that guides it, alongside the natural interests of its foreign and international policies. There is a right time for everything, in terms of international initiatives. Even James Baker, who shook the two sides quite violently, who manipulated them to get them to one table, believed that from that point on, the sides should be given a chance to find their own way, to forge a dialogue on their own. We must remember that before embarking on his initiative, Baker himself said publicly that at some point, there would be a dialogue between Israel and the PLO.

[Bassok] Is the Clinton administration the friendliest in American history?

[Bentzur] I do not get into this kind of rating. Suffice it to say that this administration is very friendly. I will take the liberty of stating almost axiomatically that because of the broad footing our two countries share, the U.S. Administration's friendliness is a given. This given suffers occasionally as a result of the absence of a judicious and fitting Israeli policy toward the United States. Even some of the bitter crises between Israel and the Bush administration could have been prevented had Israel been more moderate and rational and had it curbed its provocative streak.

[Bassok] In recent years, we have become accustomed to seeing more and more Jews on the U.S. side of the table. Does this reflect a deliberate U.S. plan designed to enhance Israel's confidence in U.S. moves?

[Bentzur] A U.S. negotiator's Jewishness or non-Jewishness is irrelevant to me. As far as I am concerned, we negotiate with U.S. representatives. Morphologically or sociologically, the growing number of Jews in senior positions in the United States reflects American Jewry's rising standing in American society and political systems. Only basic values such as those embraced by American society can give each individual a full, an absolute opportunity to exhaust his potential. [passage omitted]

[Bassok] Has the affair which you started with North Korea ended? Who torpedoed it: the Americans or Israelis?

[Bentzur] I would like to start by saying that from the first moment of the negotiations with North Korea, I had Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' full support. His ability to embrace unconventional ways of thinking helped him acknowledge the opportunity and the vital nature of the move. After a talk with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin very shortly thereafter, approval was given to act in the spirit of my proposal. The Iraqi missiles that unfortunately landed on our heads should be a constant reminder that the nightmare of the "missile war" option is still valid here. As for the question of who torpedoed it, permit me not to elaborate. I would like to note that the person did not trip me; I am very sorry to say that he tripped the State of Israel. It was never a private project, not for a moment. [passage omitted]

Envoy Relays Appeal to Mauritania on Relations

TA0309194294 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Israel has called on Mauritania to follow in the footsteps of its neighbor, Morocco, and form ties, at first at the level of liaison offices. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that such a message was relayed to Mauritania about a week ago through a European envoy. Israeli and Mauritanian representatives met during the multilateral peace negotiations, and the Mauritanians expressed readiness to form ties on condition that Morocco does so first.

Mauritania is a Muslim state and a member of the Arab League. It has a population of 2 million. Its relations

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with Morocco were strained in the past because Rabat claimed that Mauritania is an artificial state, created by France, and that it is situated on Moroccan territory.

The Israeli representation to be set up in Rabat will be located in the neighborhood that houses most embassies. The structure will be able to serve as an embassy in the future. The large building was offered by Morocco. When the negotiations with Israel started, Morocco considered setting up its representation in Jerusalem but recanted.

Moves Under Way To Establish Ties With Tunisia

TA0209113494 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Sep 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by Yerah Tal]

[Excerpt] Recently, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has secretly visited Tunisia and met with leaders there to establish bilateral relations. A senior Israeli political source said yesterday that other senior Foreign Ministry officials, including Shlomo Gur and Yosi Gal, maintained contacts in Tunisia to establish relations and prepare for the Casablanca conference in October. The foreign minister's media adviser denied that Peres visited Tunisia.

Knesset Member Rafi Edri visited Tunisia in May on behalf of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. Edri delivered a letter to Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali from the prime minister, updating him on the peace process and referring to establishing bilateral relations.

Jerusalem sources expect that following the establishment of relations between Israel and Morocco, Tunisia is expected to establish ties with Israel at the level of liaison offices. The senior political source divulged that the contacts with Tunisia are being held at the highest levels, and emphasized that "the reactions from Tunis are very encouraging."

Israeli officials assess that if the Casablanca conference, scheduled for late October, results in extensive investments in the area, this would encourage Arab and Muslim countries, including Tunis, to recognize Israel and establish relations with it, even if at the low level of interest offices. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew on 2 September includes a report on pages 1 and 12 by Orly Azulay-Katz, from Rabat, and Shim'on Schiffer on the Tunisian issue, which notes: "Recently Belgium has mediated contacts for advancing the interests office idea. The Tunisians have already expressed their willingness to post Israeli diplomats at the Belgian Embassy in Tunis, at the same time posting Tunisians representatives in the Belgian Embassy in Tel Aviv."]

Envoys Told To Apologize Over Bhutto Incident

TA0409140094 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Sep 94 p A3

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Text] Israel will apologize to Pakistan for the diplomatic incident that occurred last week over Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's scheduled visit to the Palestinian self-rule area of the Gaza Strip.

The Foreign Ministry has instructed Ambassador in Cairo David Sultan and another ambassador to an Asian country, both of whom maintain contacts with their Pakistani counterparts, to express Israel's regret over the way this incident developed.

The ambassadors were told that they should stress the importance Israel attributes to the agreement with the Palestinians and to its strict adherence. They were further told to express Israel's criticism of the initial reaction from the Foreign Ministry spokesman in Islamabad, according to which Bhutto will visit Gaza but will ignore Israel and have no contact with it.

Bodies of 2 Arabs Found; Riot Dispersed in Hebron

TA0209132994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] At noon, the bodies of two Arab men were discovered between two Arab villages east of Nabulus, and troops are investigating whether they were killed while preparing explosives. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the bodies were found between the villages of 'Aqraba and Majdal Bani Fadil, southeast of Nabulus. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the police are investigating at the site and suspect that the two were killed while preparing a large explosive charge or even a car bomb.

There were disturbances today in the center of Hebron, when groups of young people hurled bottles and stones at IDF soldiers, but there were no casualties. The soldiers used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse the rioters.

Ministry To Help Palestinians Fight Pollution

TA0209113794 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Sep 94 p A3

[Report by Liat Collins]

[Text] The Agriculture Ministry will help the Palestinian Authority check for the source of pollution in agricultural produce.

At a meeting yesterday between Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tsur and Muhammad El-Rais, director general of the PA's agriculture department, the two agreed to cooperate on a number of measures to prevent contaminated produce from reaching Israel and to locate the source of the problem.

The meeting was urgently convened following the Health Ministry's warning that a large number of bacteria had been found in vegetables from Gaza.

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The chief veterinarians and members of Israeli and Palestinian wildlife protection bodies also took part in the meeting.

El-Rais denied Israeli allegations that Gazan farmers water their fields with sewage. If there are above acceptable levels of bacteria in produce, the source is in groundwater and wells which have been polluted by the sewage from Gaza City and the nearby refugee camps, he said.

He also said that tests show abnormal quantities of bacteria in lettuce and celery, but these vegetables are not being marketed outside Gaza at present, adding that apparently these contaminated vegetables came from Israeli farmers. Israeli farmers have denied that it is their produce that carries the pollutants.

El-Rais described the issue as "a very serious one" as the same water source is used for irrigating fields and drinking water.

Experts from both sides are expected to jointly collect water samples and examine the irrigation system in the Gaza Strip in the coming days.

If polluted water is found, the experts will help the Palestinian Authority agricultural workers establish a filter system.

Tsur and El-Rais have met several times in the past but this was the first time the heads of the Palestinian Agriculture Department visited the minister's office in Tel Aviv.

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Prime Minister, PNA Ministers Discuss Cooperation

JN0609140794 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali received in his office at the Prime Ministry today 'Abd-al-Aziz al-Hajj Ahmad, minister of transport in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA], and Fayiz Zaydan, director of the PNA's Civil Aviation Authority. Transport Minister Engineer Samir Qa'war attended.

Transport Minister Eng. Samir Qa'war spoke to our correspondent Khalil al-Qaryuti on what took place during the meeting.

[Begin Qa'war recording] This is the second visit by the PNA's Transport Minister, brother 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Hajj Ahmad. Mr. Fayiz Zaydan, director of the Civil Aviation Authority is accompanying him. The discussion with the prime minister dealt with many issues, particularly the question of cooperation to establish a Civil Aviation Authority in the Palestinian state, and also the establishment of a meteorological department.

Of course, and at His Majesty King Husayn's instructions, we will offer all the assistance and necessary training to the PNA to enable it to establish the institutions, departments, and ministries it wishes. We will offer them the assistance they need at any time.

The Civil Aviation Authority director will meet with the officials from the Jordanian Civil Aviation Authority today and tomorrow to coordinate on how to secure the qualified people needed to help them establish their institutions and departments in the West Bank. [end recording]

'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Hajj Ahmad, transport minister in the PNA, also spoke to our correspondent:

[Begin Ahmad recording] First of all, I would like to express my happiness to meet with the prime minister. We consider it a meeting between brothers and kinsmen. It is also a continuation of previous meetings on coordination and cooperation between the PNA and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. There is a distinguished and special relationship between the Palestinians and Jordanians. Now that the PNA has been established, we are trying, through these meetings, to lay practical foundations on the ground for cooperation and full coordination in the new stage that has started. The meeting was necessary. Meetings between Jordan and Palestine are always necessary and important. Cooperation is also necessary. We are discussing the possibility of cooperation in the technical and practical areas related to transportation, aviation, land transport, transport routes, especially since the next stage is one of a large region that gives special importance to the transportation sector. The prime minister, on instructions from his majesty the king, has expressed willingness to provide all the expertise needed, as well as everything possible for the building of Palestinian institutions and the competent authorities in this sector. We appreciate the prime minister's position and hope that in the future we can make achievements on the ground to promote the interests of our Arab people and the region as a whole. [end recording]

Deputy Condones Shedding of Jewish Blood

JN0609125694 Amman AL-RASIF in Arabic 4 Sep 94 p 3

[Report on interview with 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant, member of the Jordanian House of Representatives, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[Text] Despite all that was said about the end of the state of war with Israel, 'Abd-al-Mun'im Abu-Zant, member of the Jordanian House of Representatives, says in this interview that war with the Jews cannot be terminated. He even issued a fatwa condoning the shedding of the blood of Jews wherever this may occur.

[Correspondent] What are the legal justifications for the issuance of a fatwa condoning the shedding of the Jews' blood?

[Abu-Zant] According to Islamic law, non-Muslims are protected when living in a Muslim state, and trusted or fought elsewhere. The first and second categories do not apply to Jews in Palestine. We still remember their grisly massacres against the Palestinian people. The massacres committed against workers in the Gaza Strip and against worshipers in the Ibrahimi Mosque were not the last. These deeds will remain an incriminating evidence on Jewish criminality.

[Correspondent] What is the text of this fatwa?

[Abu-Zant] Every Jew in holy Palestine who is capable of carrying arms will be fighting against us. The Islamic ruling in this regard is that the shedding of his blood is condoned wherever he may be, thus acting in execution of God's ordinance.

[Correspondent] In spite of the loud voices against the Washington declaration, the Islamic movement avoided confrontation with the government. How do you justify this conciliation, given the fact that the Islamic movement enjoys a popular weight that might bring pressure to bear on the government?

[Abu-Zant] There is no conciliation with the government. It has lost the legality of its existence since it has reneged on its pledge to God, the Constitution, and the people. This means that the government is acting against the supreme interests of the country and people. Moreover, the government has employed and monopolized the mass media to promote its policies. It turned the state media into government media in implementation of orders from the United States in order to salvage the Rabin government after it had failed to put an end to the intifadah.

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Such a government, having reneged on all pledges, is legally and constitutionally considered dismissed and need not resign. As for the Islamic movement's position, it is not conciliatory. It is an exercise of self-restraint to preserve the country's security and stability. The Islamic movement deemed it wise to adhere to the constructive opposition line in the interest of the country and people away from grudges. Distinction should be made between self-restraint and the conciliatory attitude that is based on fear, which does not at all exist. The government now is in an unenviable position after it has lost its prestige and credibility.

[Correspondent] In your opinion, what are the means of resistance in the coming stage?

[Abu-Zant] Confrontation in the coming stage, which is called by some normalization, while I call it Judaization, is based on two axes: The first axis is on the eastern bank of the river. It stipulates the general mobilization of the people in terms of ideology and belief, then proceeding toward resisting Judaization and normalization. Mobilization includes creating public awareness to boycott all corporations that deal with the Jews. We should bear in mind that every Jew entering Jordan must realize that the shedding of his blood is condoned.

The second axis deals with the western bank of the river. Material, moral, and media support for the intifadah until full liberation should be strongly emphasized.

Relations With Saudi Arabia Said Improving

JN0409142694 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Dispatch by Randah Habib in Amman]

[Text] Jordanian-Saudi relations are moving toward what appears to be the beginning of improvement following the tension that plagued relations between the two kingdoms as a result of the Gulf crisis.

Amman is awaiting Riyadh's approval of the appointment of Hani Khalifah as the new ambassador, after the Foreign Ministry sounded the Saudi authorities on this appointment in accordance with diplomatic norms.

Saudi Arabia has agreed to increase the number of Jordanian diplomats in Riyadh to four, including the ambassador. Since September 1990, this had been restricted to two diplomats.

There has been no Jordanian ambassador in Riyadh since 1992 when tension between the two countries peaked. Riyadh recalled its ambassador from Amman in October 1990, and since then it was represented by a charge d'affaires. One month earlier, it expelled most Jordanian diplomats accredited to Saudi Arabia and kept the ambassador and another diplomat.

In addition to this diplomatic move, an official meeting was held last week between officials of the two countries' border posts, al-'Umari and al-Hadithah, who agreed to foster coordination and reopen telephone links between the two border posts.

Meanwhile, Jordanian diplomat Mashhur al-Zabn is making the first official visit by a Jordanian diplomat to Kuwait since the Gulf war. Al-Zabn was received by Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, the undersecretary of the Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry.

Ties With Saudi Arabia, Gulf Heading Toward Revival

JN0509082294 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 5 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] Lieutenant General Muhammad al-Muqbil al-'Utaybi, assistant director of the Saudi Intelligence Service, recently arrived in Amman on an unannounced private visit.

AL-MAJD learned that al-'Utaybi, who held many contacts with Jordanian political and security officials, returned to his country with positive impressions that will contribute to reviving Jordanian-Saudi relations.

Well-informed sources believe the Jordanian-Saudi estrangement, in particular, and the Jordanian-Gulf estrangement, in general, may be on their way to an end. These sources based this belief on a recent Jordanian measure to nominate Hani Khalifah as Jordan's ambassador to Saudi Arabia, after this position had remained vacant for a long time following the transfer of Ambassador Nasir al-Batayinah from Riyadh. However, Saudi Arabia has not yet responded to this nomination.

It is noteworthy that the United States no longer has any objection to the restoration of Jordanian-Gulf relations, after Jordan signed the Washington Declaration and normalized its relations with Israel.

Daily 'Optimistic' About Relations With Gulf States

JN0609102294 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 6 Sep 94 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "Mutual Positive Signs"]

[Text] Some diplomatic signs between Jordan and certain Arab Gulf states show that something new is beginning to move in the ineq Jordanian-Gulf relations and that there has been some breakthrough in these relations when compared with what the situation has been like during the past few weeks.

At this early stage, we do not want to go too far with our conclusions, which are in harmony with our joint aspirations toward restoring these relations to the solid bases as they were before. Still, the mutual positive signs between Amman and certain Gulf capitals call for some optimism about the possibility of mending the rift that has been going on for almost four years straight.

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It is well known that Jordan did its utmost to restore sincere brotherly relations with the rest of the Gulf Cooperation Council states. It is also well known that Jordan's efforts were successful and welcomed by some states, especially Oman and Qatar, and to a lesser extent by the United Arab Emirates.

Today, a great deal of water has passed under the bridge since the Gulf war, and we find that there are grounds for being somewhat optimistic about restoring these relations back to normal. This is especially true since this stage is critical to the Arab nation, which is facing fateful stands on the level of the peace process and is looking forward to facing these stands in a spirit of solidarity, which is greatly needed at this stage.

In light of all this, it is natural for us to be optimistic about the current diplomatic moves between us and the brothers in both Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. It is also natural for us to sincerely aspire to success on this track, which should restore matters between the brothers back to normal and should open a new chapter in inter-Arab relations, which currently lack dialogue and openness.

Officials on Progress of Ties With Saudi Arabia, Kuwait

JN0609170094 Amman AL-ASWAQ in Arabic 6 Sep 94 pp 1, 14

[Report by Nasir 'Arif]

[Excerpt] Talal Sat'an al-Hasan, minister of state for foreign affairs, has said that Jordan welcomes any sign of relaxation in inter-Arab relations. He said Jordan is doing all it can toward that end. In a statement to AL-ASWAQ, al-Hasan added that His Majesty King Husayn has let no opportunity slip without announcing that Jordan's heart is open to its brothers and that its hand is extended to them in order to turn a new leaf.

Al-Hasan was responding to a question by AL-ASWAQ on the appearance of positive signs toward Jordan in the Gulf press.

In this regard, a senior official at the Foreign Ministry described the results of the Jordanian delegation's visit to Kuwait as very good, pointing out the warm welcome that the delegation received from Kuwaiti Foreign Ministry officials.

Ahmad al-Mubayyidin, director of the information department at the Foreign Ministry, said that the visit has succeeded in achieving its objective of breaking the psychological barrier which had prevented officials from both countries from meeting to discuss issues of joint interest.

He said that the Jordanian delegation's visit to Kuwait left a positive impression about the possibility of achieving the appropriate atmosphere within the next months to revive brotherly relations between the two countries in the service of the two Arab peoples.

Asked when the Jordanian Embassy in Kuwait will resume its activities, al-Mubayyidin said that the resumption of normal diplomatic activity at the Jordanian Embassy still needs some time because special arrangements have to be made. He said it is hoped that such arrangements will be completed soon.

In response to a question by AL-ASWAQ on the meetings that are said to have taken place between Jordanian and Saudi officials from the two countries' border posts and the calls for appointing a Jordanian ambassador to Saudi Arabia, al-Mubayyidin said that diplomatic norms concerning the appointment of ambassadors dictate that the name of the ambassador who is to be appointed to a country be not announced, because such matters take place through diplomatic channels in the two concerned countries. He said this is in line with the principle of seeking the advice of the state to which an ambassador is to be designated.

Al-Mubayyidin explained that in view of this, it is premature to talk about the name of the Jordanian ambassador who will be appointed to Saudi Arabia. He stressed the Jordanian Government's eagerness to have good relations with all Arab states, chief of which is Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

Islamists Appeal to Oman's Qabus To Release Clerics

JN0709098594 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 7 Sep 94 p 20

[Text] Amman—The Islamic Action Front deputies [in the Jordanian House of Representatives] have appealed to Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman to release the recently arrested Muslim clerics and allow them to resume their normal life away from legal prosecution and harassment so that they can carry out their role in serving their country and nation. In a statement issued yesterday [6 September], the deputies beseeched God to protect Oman against any harm and turn it into an oasis of security, stability, and welfare in the treasured Gulf region.

SHIHAN Reports on Carlos' Life in Amman

JN0209161194

[Editorial Report] In its 3-9 September issue, Amman SHIHAN in Arabic publishes on pages 14 and 15 an approximately 2,000-word "investigative report" on the period of time in which the infamous international terrorist Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, better known as Carlos the jackal, resided in Amman.

The report begins by saying that Carlos moved to Amman in 1993, but noted that this was not his first visit to Jordan. In 1970, Carlo was in Jordan as a member of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and he fought against the Jordanian Army in the battles known as Black September.

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The report adds that Carlos entered on a forged Iraqi passport, under the name of Dr. Murad Shakir 'Aziz, whose job was described in the passport as an economic counselor at the Iraqi Embassy. The paper says that Carlos lived in a villa in the al-Rabiyah suburb of Amman. A picture of the villa was published with the report.

The report, written by a SHIHAN "press team," interviewed an unidentified person who claimed to be friend of Carlos' during his time in Amman. The friend said he was a frequent visitor at Carlos' villa and was unaware of his real identity. The friend said he once entered Carlos' bedroom and found it full of light weapons.

The friend also spoke in detail about Carlos' personal life, his habits, and the food and drinks he liked. He said Carlos underwent surgery for hemorrhoids at al-Shumaysani Hospital in 1993.

On why Carlos left Amman for Khartoum, the report says: "Following a number of recent assassinations in Jordan, the Jordanian security forces began to tighten surveillance on Gulf and Iraqi personalities living in Amman. It seemed that Carlos' advisers, who asked him to go to Jordan, became aware that the Jordanian security forces were closing in on him, so they advised him to leave Jordan for Khartoum for his safety."

Crown Prince Addresses Modernization, Development Team

JN0409202094 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 4 Sep 94

[From the "News at Ten"]

[Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, called for a continued dialogue of policies as opposed to political dialogue in order to reach effective development and modernization. Prince Hasan made the remarks during a meeting that grouped members of the Royal Commission for Modernization and Development with private sector representatives of trade, industry, professional syndicates, labor unions, lawyers, and the media.

The regent cleared any misconceptions with regard to the Commission's functions and objectives and stressed the commission seeks to deepen dialogue with all concerned sectors for the benefit of the human element. His royal highness also stressed the need for dealing with the new political and economic realities sweeping the region.

With this regard, Prince Hasan called for a balance between political progress and economic and developmental progress.

[Begin Prince Hasan recording in Arabic with English subtitles] Allow me here to emphasize that the general political approach preserves the delicate balance between progress in the political and legal fields; that is, border demarcation and water, on the one hand and the talk about the economic future on the other. I say that this delicate balance between the political and legal progress on the one hand and the economic and developmental progress on the other, because I am perfectly aware of the size of the temptations directed at the states in this region of the world.

Here, allow me to say that I am one of those who reject the idea of normalization in the sense of submission when I talk about preserving the picture in its entirety. However, if we want to talk about normalization that is in harmony with progress in the political and legal field—border demarcation, the water dimension, the Jordanian rights, as I have said on more than one occasion, and during the opening of the border crossing a few days ago in front of the Israeli prime minister—this harmony must appear in all our measures and not only in our statements.

We cannot preserve harmony between the political and legal dimension in demanding our rights, rejecting normalization in the sense of submission, and the call for what is normal in our life and the life of nations without the definite call for developing the concept of self-reliance based on efficient and effective establishments. [end recording]

The regent highlighted the various issues that could be dealt with in the context of encouraging investment and improving its climate, as the conditions around us change. Equally, his royal highness also discussed improving the production climate and called on the private sector to contribute toward a more qualitative output. Prince Hasan urged a responsible dialogue with the objective of creating a national coalition and public opinion to move the modernization process forward. The regent said isolationism was not a means to meet the challenges facing us, stressing that a new behavioral order would ensure modernization and development in the service of the Jordanian citizen.

Prince Hasan expressed the hope that future meetings would get the Commission together with representatives of Jordan's political spectrum.

Following Prince Hasan's remarks, members of the Commission and the participants discussed various issues relevant to the Commission's work. That included deregulation, cutting red tape and bureaucracy, simplifying procedures, as well as other issues related to management, labor legislation, vocational training, rehabilitation, competitiveness of Jordanian products, and employment opportunities.

Bank Governor Predicts Move To Convertible Dinar

JN0409064094 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 4 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Jordan's monetary policies are now steadily heading towards the transformation of the dinar into a convertible currency, benefitting trade exchanges, according to Central Bank Governor Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi.

But Dr. al-Nabulsi said in a working paper he presented to a meeting in Tunis recently that such a step can be no means give free conversion power to capital, something

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which can only be achieved at an advanced stage when certain conditions have been met.

The paper, presented to an annual meeting of the Council of Central Bank Governors of the Arab World, said capital will be totally free to convert once the country has been able to control financial deficits.

He noted that until that stage has been reached certain aspects of capital exchanges can be freed if that policy proves feasible like allowing free movement of funds from and into the occupied West Bank with a view to benefitting from the investment momentum expected there.

The positive aspects of a freely convertible dinar, Dr. al-Nabulsi said, can help raise the efficiency of services provided by the local financial sectors, enabling local institutions to diversify their activities abroad.

Such move would also enable institutions to adopt new administrative and technological skills and would enable residents in the country to keep diversified assets escaping possible monetary upheavals, he added.

A convertible dinar would enable Jordan to have easy access to international financial markets and would enable capital to flow onto the Jordanian market, according to Dr. al-Nabulsi.

Referring to Jordan's obligations towards the International Monetary Fund, (IMF), Dr al-Nabulsi said honouring of article eight of the agreement with the IMF can by no means affect the country's request for rescheduling foreign debts in the future. On the contrary, he said, that would have its positive effect as it would help free current expenses from constraints, and later help liberate capital. something which would crown current national efforts towards economic reform.

Dr. al-Nabulsi said that the IMF requires that all restrictions affecting wages and commodity prices he removed and that the country adopt an integrated taxation system and also stabilise the local banking system.

Article 8, Dr. al-Nabulsi added, demands that Jordan develop new financial instruments and wise monetary and financial policies designed to reduce the margin of difference between the local and foreign financial markets.

EC, European Investment Bank To Aid Water Projects

JN0609170494 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1403 GMT 6 Sep 94

[From the "Economic Bulletin" program]

[Text] An agreement has recently been signed between the Jordanian Government and the EC, according to which the EC will contribute 11 million ECU toward the implementation of a project aimed at promoting water services in the kingdom. The project will address water shortages and repair and expand water networks in al-Karak, al-Tafilah, and al-Shawbak, and provide waste water purification plants in al-'Aqabah, al-Karak, Kufrinjah, al-Ramtha, al-Mafraq, and Madaba.

The project will also provide training on the operation and maintenance of waste water processing plants throughout the kingdom.

Moreover, the project will promote water supplies in various villages, protect the environment through a better use of waste water processing plants, and provide the appropriate processing of irrigation water.

In a related development, the European Investment Bank will support the project of maintaining the al-Salt water network by granting the Water Authority 12 million ECU to implement the project in order to address the population increase in the city.

Authorities 'Dissatisfied' With Airbus Contract

JN0409182094 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Sep 94 p 9

[Text] A senior Jordanian source has told AL-HAYAH that during King Husayn's visit to Paris on 31 August, Marwan al-Qasim, the king's political adviser, told French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and French Ambassador to Jordan Bernard Beaujolais that Jordan was dissatisfied with the contract signed in 1991 between Royal Jordanian and the French Airbus Corporation.

According to the contract, Jordan is to purchase six Airbus planes, and possibly two further planes. In addition, Royal Jordanian shall not sign any other contract or charter any plane without the prior approval of Airbus. The contract expires in 2005.

The source said that signing this contract by Royal Jordanian drove King Husayn to dismiss its board.

Jordanian authorities think the terms of the contract are unacceptable because they conflict with Clause 89 of the Rome Agreement, which prohibits any restrictions in any trade contract.

The source added that if Jordan decides to sue Airbus, then such a step would reflect negatively on Airbus. The chairman of Airbus, who had visited Jordan and who attended a luncheon held by French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur in honor of King Husayn, said the Jordanians want a "clear and clean" relationship, especially since Jordanian lawyers had found that there is a sum of $2 million which is not stated in the contract.

The source further said that Jordan had told Airbus that the two planes that the corporation proposed Jordan purchase, in addition to the six planes that Jordan already purchased, are to be resold to Airbus.

In a related development, U.S. President Bill Clinton suggested to King Husayn—when they met in Washington—taking a $200 million loan from the American Export-Import Bank (Eximbank) if Jordan was interested in purchasing Boeing planes. The king replied that Jordanian experts would study the offer.

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Lebanese Forces Revokes Recognition of al-Ta'if Accord

NC0609105994 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0941 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Statement by the Lebanese Forces' new Command Council; date not given]

[Text] The members of the Lebanese Forces' Command Council have met to assess the status of the Lebanese Forces since 1990. They discussed the collapse of the Christian people's resistance in Lebanon.

After the meeting the Command Council's members declared the following:

1. The Lebanese Forces' Command Council decided to keep its session open to confront the situation. The Council decided to assume all political, organizational, financial, and military powers. In view of the situation the Command Council decided to temporarily relieve Comrade Samir Ja'ja' of his post as commander and to confine this position within the collective committees of the Lebanese Forces free command. This will enable the command to serve the supreme national interest;

2. The Command Council decided to annul the Forces commander's decision of 3 April 1990 in which he recognized the al-Ta'if Accord and the authority created by it. Accordingly, the Lebanese Forces withdraw their recognition of the regime in Lebanon and state that they consider the Syrian forces deployed in Lebanon as occupation forces;

3. The Command Council revoked the Forces commander's decision in which he dissolved the military organization and other Lebanese Forces' bodies in 1991. Hence all the resistance bodies will continue their struggle;

4. The Command Council decided to dismiss all the heads of the Lebanese Forces' departments and to request that the free command be in charge of all departments until further notice.

The Council decided to form a follow-up committee to investigate all the organizational and political practices of the heads of the departments since 3 April 1990;

5. The Command Council announces that it is not concerned with the Lebanese authority's decision authorizing the so-called Lebanese Forces Party. It is not concerned with the decision dissolving the party mentioned above. The party that obtained a license from al-Ta'if authority has nothing to do with the Lebanese Forces as a national liberation movement representing the Christian Lebanese people;

6. The Command Council announces that the movable and immovable assets of the Lebanese Forces, their property, and money, particularly that deposited in the name of comrade Samir Ja'ja' or that authorized by him to be kept in particular quarters or as deposits in banks in or outside Lebanon, are a trust for the Lebanese Forces held in the name of the Christian Lebanese people. The Command Council warns those entrusted with keeping these assets against disposing of these assets as personal property. The Command Council will pursue those entrusted with keeping these assets, no matter how long this may take. The Command Council keeps detailed records of all the resistance's assets;

7. The Command Council warns the command members who deal with the Syrian occupation and its affiliated regime against the consequences of continuing these deals, for which they will be held accountable;

8. The Command Council announces the unlawfulness of the war waged by a command faction within the Lebanese Forces against General Michel 'Awn, the government, and the Lebanese Army. The Council holds this faction fully responsible for the civil war and its resulting collective and individual tragedies;

9. The Council announces the formation of a commission of inquiry into all the crimes said to have been committed by Lebanese Forces' leaders, officials, and personnel against politicians and innocent citizens from among the Christian people. The Council considers dear martyr Engineer [former Liberal Party leader] Dany Sham'un and his family as martyrs of the Lebanese Christian resistance; and

10. The Command Council invites all current and former officials and personnel in the Lebanese Forces and in the Christian resistance to unify under the banner of the Command Council, which represents the free leadership of the resistance. The Council promises that the resistance message continues and that the return of freedom to our national regions is inevitable.

Leaders Return From Summit in Damascus

NC0209192394 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri, and Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri returned to Beirut from Damascus this evening, following a summit with President Hafiz al-Asad and senior Syrian officials.

Official Lebanese sources said that the talks focused on the regional peace process and the stages it has reached in light of the talks with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, as well as the situation in the south.

The two sides reiterated the need for continued coordination in connection with the peace process.

The talks also discussed bilateral ties, in the framework of cooperation and coordination.

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Buwayz Rejects Rabin's Remarks on Syrian Deployment

NC0609173494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said this evening that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's recent statements on his options regarding the deployment of the Syrian forces in Lebanon constitute an explicit attempt to harm Lebanon's sovereignty and interfere in its domestic affairs.

Buwayz said the deployment—its place, objective, and duration—remains a Lebanese-Syrian affair, and is not a card for Rabin to bargain over. He added: Lebanon, which has proved its absolute adherence to its full sovereignty and to the safety of its territory, would like to remind people that this adherence has cost it, as the Israeli occupation did, heavy blood, which makes Lebanon reject these maneuvers by Rabin. Buwayz concluded: Lebanese-Syrian relations, based as they are on strengthening the sovereignty of each of the two countries, are too deep to be affected by maneuvers that try to make themselves appear appealing, as those included in Rabin's recent statements.

Jordanian Parliament Speaker Meets Birri, Comments

NC0709110894 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri at 1100 today received Tahir al-Masri, speaker of the Jordanian House of Representatives, accompanied by Jordan's Ambassador to Lebanon Fakhri Abu-Talib.

Afterward al-Masri said his meeting with his Lebanese counterpart was purely personal. He said he hoped they could exchange official parliamentary and perhaps governmental visits.

Asked about agreements concluded in the region and the ongoing negotiations, al-Masri said these issues are being handled on the bilateral tracks. The course of each track, he added, was determined by a political decision. He added: The various tracks will converge at one point—that is, peace.

Phalangist Leader Criticizes 'Housing' of Palestinians

NC0109194594 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 1 Sep 94

[Text] Phalangist Party Secretary General Attorney Karim Paqraduni has expressed his belief that the term housing is another name for resettlement. He asked: Why was the issue raised so suddenly? He said: I believe that the issue has a background. They tried to disguise it with human rights, which no one can oppose.

In a television interview, he said: The Palestinians must be given compensation, because no one wants to throw them into the sea. With this compensation, he added, they can live in the existing camps. In addition, the UN Relief and Works Agency has said that it is responsible for what happens inside but not outside the camps.

Paqraduni said: I believe that the issue is big and serious. They tried to conceal the issue and then to peddle it, but when they were exposed they backed down. He added that it is evident that Prime Minister al-Hariri and Minister Walid Junblatt are backing down.

Shams-al-Din Issues Fatwa Against Cairo Meeting

NC0209210494 Paris AFP in English 2011 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Beirut, Sept 2 (AFP)—The leader of Lebanon's Shiite community issued a fatwa, or religious decree, banning Moslems from bowing to any resolutions at the UN population conference that run contrary to the teachings of Islam.

"I am issuing a decree banning Moslem states and governments from conforming with any decision contrary to the least precept of shari'ah law and the jurisprudence of the different Moslem sects," said Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din.

He called on all the opponents of the World Population Conference opening on Monday [5 September] in Cairo to raise their voice to denounce the controversial forum, and said it "must fail."

Conservative and radical Moslems have attacked the draft resolutions of the September 5-13 conference, saying they encouraged promiscuity and contradicted Islamic values.

Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Sudan are boycotting the conference.

Fadlallah: Al-Ta'if Accord U.S. Attempt To Dominate

NC0409070994 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah believes that the Islamic Resistance does not acknowledge the peace initiative of Israel or the United States. It is therefore natural that it does not recognize the results of such a peace. He believes that the Resistance sees the liberation of Lebanon as a stage. If Lebanon is liberated, it is only natural that it (?would not have any business in Lebanon anymore). His eminence says in a newspaper interview that the Resistance is not showing all its cards because its future activities are based on a strategy that is not divided into stages.

On the al-Ta'if agreement, his eminence said that when it was begun it was not designed to undergo the current experience. Those who wanted the al-Ta'if agreement to be turned into a Lebanese constitution wanted it to occur

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in two stages. The first stage was to put an end to the war and provide certain touches to some paragraphs in some of its articles. The second stage was to come after the end of the Lebanese crisis, which cannot be resolved unless the crisis in the region is resolved. Then, the al-Ta'if agreement would start to experiment. This is why those who are talking about the failure of the experiment are not correct, because the current stage does not envisage trying to implement the al-Ta'if accord, but attempting to decorate the Lebanese state with the banner of the al-Ta'if.

Fadlallah believes that the al-Ta'if agreement is totally an American document based on the ruins of the 1943 accord, designed so that Lebanon will emerge from the French stage and enter an American stage.

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Information Minister Discusses Peace Process

JN0209153494 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] Information Minister Dr. Muhammad Salman has stated that, since the Madrid conference and the U.S. initiative, Syria has handled the peace process from a firm conviction in the need for a just and universal peace in the region grounded in UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. We have consistently sought peace as a key objective, not as a tactic, along the lines of the two resolutions, Salman said in interview with L'Orient Radio.

For us, peace is a strategic option, which, as such, spares us the need for political or media maneuvers. Our ideas are clear and the Syrian position is well known to everybody. The key constituents of the Syrian position are now general knowledge.

Asked about reported progress on the Syrian track, Dr. Salman said this track boils down to one thing, and that is a complete Israeli pullout from the Golan Heights to the pre-1967 borders. When Israel agrees to pull back to the 4 June 1967 borders, this will amount to real progress. Nothing short of this will count as progress, Dr. Salman added.

However, the ideas broached during U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's trips to the region, all in all, advanced the peace process, Dr. Salman noted.

About so-called explicit and implicit charges in connection with the so-called terrorist or Carlos case, the information minister said that such talk is familiar. Syria condemns terror, whatever its origin—state or individual—the information minister emphasized. Associating the name of Syria with terror to put pressure on us seems to be a roundabout way of demanding that we concede our national rights. Syria will not give in to such pressures or change course; it will remain wedded to its national rights and territory, no matter what is said.

Dr. Salman was asked to react to the suggestion that the current media liberalization, administrative amendments, and the last elections for the General Assembly in Syria all point in the direction of bracing for the era of peace with Israel. He said: Syria keeps up with the times and adapts to local developments. Syrian society has never been inert. Ever since Syria began to experience democracy in 1970, specifically since President Hafiz al-Asad assumed office, there have been developments inspired by local realities, which have served national interests. The Syrian media, he added, is well tuned to government policies, and is, therefore, removed from maneuvers. Nor does it promote any misleading notions out of step with state policy.

The Syrian media has moved in tandem with political, social, legislative, and regional and world developments. We do not and will not keep anything from ordinary Syrians, especially in regard to the core issue of Middle East peace that concerns every Syrian and Arab. We have, therefore, been forthcoming in informing the general public about the current peacemaking efforts. Having seen Yasir 'Arafat and Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin sign the 13 September Declaration of Principles, and later the 1994 signing of the Washington Declaration, our people in Syria and the Palestinians both within and outside the Palestinian territory are now convinced this is not the road to peace. We, therefore, do not tell our people that peace is possible through bilateral, piecemeal pacts. The problem is too comprehensive to be handled piecemeal. All the Arabs have been raised to view the Palestinian question as their core issue. Any occupied Arab territory—whether Syrian, Palestinian, Lebanese, Jordanian, or Egyptian—counts as a core issue for all Arabs. Thus, bilateral agreements cannot possibly bring peace to the region. There is no way separate deals will bring peace. Our media is telling our people the truth about what is going on.

The minister was asked about the possibility of an agreement being reached on the ideas Christopher will bring by the end of the year. Dr. Salman said: We do no think that key ideas should be discussed in advance. On his departure from Syria, noted Salman, Mr. Christopher was asked about the ideas that came up in his talks in Damascus. The U.S. secretary reacted by saying that we do not hold negotiations through the media. We will not go into or assess what has been said through the media, Dr. Salman said. We would rather wait until Mr. Christopher arrives so we can listen firsthand to his ideas.

Dr. Salman was asked to comment on the statements of Israeli officials that Israel is prepared to make a withdrawal on the Golan rather than a withdrawal from the Golan Heights, or carry out a phased withdrawal over many months. The minister said: We have always said that Syria's ideas and policies are consistent and have made a point of making them public. By playing on words and equivocating, Israeli officials are sidestepping UN resolutions. If there was a will in Israel to abide by the UN Security Council resolutions, Israeli ideas would have been made via official channels, whether in relation to Syria or any other Arab state.

The minister said that the gains Israel has made on the Palestinian and other fronts through subterfuge, tempts it to engage in trickery and equivocation. Israel's policies and tactics are transparent to Syria. We will, therefore, not discuss them through the media. We will make our ideas known and acquaint ourselves with Israel's ideas through the good offices of the American secretary of state. We will not engage in equivocation through the media, the minister added.

Asked how he sees Lebanon's future against the backdrop of current regional developments, the minister said that, with the country's institutions now functioning smoothly, the prospects look good. These institutions have advanced to such a degree that they can cater to the needs of the Lebanese people inside and outside the

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country. We in Syria, the minister added, are extending every assistance to these institutions and to the Lebanese Government and people so they may rid themselves of the traces of the civil war that was forced on them. We have an optimistic view of Lebanon's future. Our idea of a just and universal peace is an Israeli pullout from south Lebanon and its commitment to Security Council Resolution 425. Peace in the region is impossible unless Israel leaves every single inch of the occupied Arab territory. Accordingly, we and Lebanon are working hand in hand to liberate the Syrian and Lebanese territories. This is our clear position that we state both at official unpublicized sessions and through the media.

The information minister was asked how amenable the Syrian and Lebanese peoples are to the notion of peace. Peace is not a novel idea to the Arabs, the minister said. Since the dawn of history and the emergence of the Arabs peace has been a component of their ideological and religious literature. Both contemporary and past literature of the Arabs underscores the importance of peace. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, for example, has, before and since 1973, advocated the kind of regional peace under which the dignity of the Arab individual is assured rather than one concluded at the expense of the Arab individual. His words to this effect are recorded on tape, Dr. Salman added.

We derive peace from our religious heritage and human perspective. It is not as if peace for us is a burden to be tolerated. Anti-peace sentiments are alien to our disposition and tradition, the minister added. It is we who have suffered from Israeli occupation and acts of aggression, and lack of peace in the region.

Asked about the Syrian-Lebanese summit, the minister said our relations, as defined by our brotherhood agreement, call for daily coordination about internal reconstruction and outside developments. There is nothing new in a summit-level meeting between Syria and Lebanon, added Dr. Salman. He noted that Lebanese and Syrian ministers met in Damascus recently to remove further obstacles in the path of the bilateral ties, particularly those affecting the man in the street in both countries. Such talks are usually held within the framework of ongoing coordination, Salman said.

Commentary: Israeli Optimism on Peace Unwarranted

JN0509175294 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1133 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: Observers who have followed the statements made by senior Israeli officials over the past few days have undoubtedly been confused as to the true Israeli position regarding the peace talks on the Syrian track. For instance, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has admitted that Syria seeks to proceed with the peace process. Nonetheless, he has failed to acknowledge that Israel must effect complete withdrawal from the Golan. Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has struck a similar note. He has expressed optimism, saying that peace with Syria is inevitable. Both Rabin and Peres insist on holding a public referendum in Israel on any peace agreement that might be signed with Syria. We are unaware of what motives have prompted Rabin and Peres to articulate such an optimistic view. Both are fully aware that any progress on the Syrian track is contingent upon an Israeli willingness to effect complete withdrawal from the Golan. Thus far, the two men have failed to declare a commitment to such withdrawal, which is unanimously supported by the international community.

The referendum spoken of by Rabin is not warranted on any legal grounds. It is illegal to hold a public referendum on the future of territory that has been occupied by the force of arms. Rabin and Peres have struck optimistic notes, but let us look at the statements made by other Israeli officials to see how weird and strange Israel is.

For instance, Israeli Environmental Protection Minister Yosi Sarid has failed to express optimism. He has warned that if no breakthrough is achieved in the peace talks with Syria next year, none will take place during the mandate of the current Israeli Government. As for General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the northern region, he has gone way further when he explicitly warned of war, and spoke of the Israeli Army's military capability and its ability to challenge Syria. Earlier, Israeli Army Chief of Staff General Ehud Baraq said in Washington that Israel must maintain its control over the Golan even after peace with Syria is achieved. Rabin endorsed these statements.

We need not review similar statements by other Israeli officials, because, all in all, they express the same sentiment. Given all this, where is the peace Israel has been speaking of? How are we to reconcile the optimistic statements made by Rabin and Peres on the one hand to the language of threats, intimidation, and war used by Gen. Yitzhaq Mordekhay on the other? Is there a contradiction between the diplomatic statements and the bellicose ones? Our experience with Israel over the past 50 years confirms that all the statements made by Israeli officials seek to achieve the same objective, and that they reflect the same and one policy, although they might sometimes appear contradictory, inharmonious, and illogical. There is a distribution of roles among Israeli officials in accordance with a carefully studied plan. Otherwise, there would have been sharp divisions and dissensions within the Israeli Government. Moreover, this government would have collapsed when tested by any small shock or crisis.

This distribution of roles is meant to deceive the world public, and camouflage the true Israeli position, which is opposed to just and comprehensive peace. Additionally, Israel is using a policy of temptation and intimidation with Syria to make it accept a deal similar to the separate

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deals it has concluded so far. The reference here is to the deals that have failed to achieve peace or even to come close to achieving peace. The excuse of democracy Israel usually advances to explain its incongruous stands cannot deceive Syria, which is aware of the objectives of these tactics. Moreover, the world is aware of these objectives. Furthermore, Syria, which is striving to achieve just and comprehensive peace, cannot be deceived by sweet words regarding peace. Nor can it be intimated by the threats of Israeli generals.

The statements made by the Tel Aviv rulers have come on the eve of a new tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. We do not believe that such statements can create a propitious climate for the U.S. and international peace efforts. As a matter of fact, these statements will create additional obstacles and augment the doubts regarding the Israeli peace stand. Moreover, these statements and positions confirm the convictions of both Syria and the international community that Israel is hostile to peace, as provided for in a UN General Assembly resolution. For the party that seeks peace must walk the path conducive to peace. It should not plant mines and obstacles in the way of peace. Moreover, the party that seeks peace does not make threats, warn of war, and resorts to saber-rattling. Nor does it consistently declare that it will hold on to the territories it has occupied by the force of arms. The party that adheres to peace does not overlook the relevant international resolutions, and the international community's consensus regarding the achievement of just and comprehensive peace. Nor does it commit daily attacks against Lebanon, or threatens to refrain from complying with the fragile agreements it has reached with some parties.

Israel has not thus far demonstrated any measure of seriousness in the peace talks. We do not believe, even for a single moment, that it is possible to achieve peace as long as Israel remains entrenched behind these preconceived positions. When Israel acts otherwise, it might be possible to speak of possible progress along the path of just and comprehensive peace; until then, this peace will remain a dream that could disappear any moment.

Civilian Infrastructure on Golan Expanded

TA0209185694 Jerusalem New Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Report by Menahem Horowitz]

[Excerpts] The Syrians have recently been busy expanding the civilian infrastructure on their side of the Golan Heights. They have set up wind turbines exactly like those operating on the Israeli side of the border. Houses in border villages are being renovated. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz has details:

Anybody visiting the Golan Heights cannot but be impressed by the huge wind turbines set up on our side of the northern Golan Heights. The Syrians were apparently also impressed by Israel's exploitation of wind energy. A wind turbine recently cropped up very close to the border on the Syrian side and is providing energy to hundreds of Syrian homes. [passage omitted]

In recent months, the Syrians have also been busying expanding the civilian infrastructure on their side of the border. For example, they built a new mosque in the village of Ahmadiyah and even renovated the homes of local residents. At the same time, the building spree is continuing in the new city of al-Qunaytirah, and just like on the Israeli side, huge water reservoirs have been created.

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Afghanistan

Party Leaders Reject Talks With Dostom

LD0409185194 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] Esteemed Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, leader of Harakat-e Enqelabi Eslami Afghanistan, and esteemed Abdol Rab Rasul Sayyaf, leader of Ethad-e Eslami Afghanistan, have rejected the participation of Dostom and his representatives in any talks and consider it as contrary to the national and Islamic interest of Afghanistan's people.

Esteemed Mawlawi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi expressed his opposition to the participation of Dostom and his representatives in any type of peace talks and stated his stance:

[Begin Mohammadi recording] We are against Dostom's participation. The reason is that Dostom's participation will mean official recognition of his group, which is called Junbash. This is against the will of all Muslims and the Mojahed nation. The Muslim people of Afghanistan have very bad memories of Dostom and do not accept him. The Muslim and Mojahed nation will never accept his official recognition. I too do not accept his participation or his official recognition.

If Dostom wants to participate or is accepted by Mr. Mestiri, it is Mr. Mestiri's idea or wish [word indistinct]. We request that Mr. Mestiri does not insist on Dostom's participation or give official recognition to Junbash against the will of our entire nation. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Esteemed Professor Abdol Rab Rasul Sayyaf, leader of Etahadi Eslami Afghanistan, also considers the participation of Dostom and his militias in peace talks as an act against the realization of jihad aims and peace and stability. He calls him the cause of tension in the country.

Esteemed Professor Sayyaf said:

[Begin Sayyaf recording in Dari] In my view, the government or state has never been in favor of continuing the war in Afghanistan. No government wants to see a war continuing in its country, and the feelings of security and tranquillity are endangered in the country.

The news which was aired by the BBC last night was fully one-sided and in the interest of those who want war and chaos to continue in our country.

Mahmud Mestiri, the UN special envoy who wants Dostom's militias, a remnant of the old regime, to take part in the talks—which are aimed at ending this unstable situation within the country ...[pauses] in our view this is not a sympathetic action. Those who want Dostom and the remnant of the old regime to take part or have a say in determining the fate of Afghanistan are in fact in favor of continuing the corruption, disorder, and chaos in Afghanistan. [end recording]

UN Envoy Mestiri Visits Badakhshan, Feyzabad

LD0609170994 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Mahmoud Mestiri, UN special envoy for Afghanistan, met yesterday in Feyzabad, capital of Badakhshan, with officials. Reports received by BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY says that Mahmoud Mestiri conducted talks with Lieutenant General 'Abdol Bashir Khaled, deputy governor and commander of the 22nd Division, and some heads of departments on the current issues of Afghanistan. The report adds that Mahmoud Mestiri, UN special envoy for Afghanistan, and Sitorios Mosourios arrived yesterday in Feyzabad and were received at the province airport by officials of the province and members of UN office in the province.

Radio Reports Defection of Dostam Commanders

LD0609213394 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1540 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] According to a report, a number of Dostam's militia commanders joined the mojahedin and the forces of the Islamic Army in Dara-e Suf, in Samangan Province, along with their men. The commanders, who have defected to the Islamic sovereignty, are Alhaj Qiamoddin Khan, Amroddin Wakil, Abdollah, Mohammad Naim, Abdol Haq, Abdussamad, Abdol Hakim, Rohollah, Qazi Abdol Hakim, and Musa Khan. After their defection the villages of (?Luzi, Dardazab, Emri, Sorkhabak, Behaq and Alikhel) in Dara-e Suf District came under the control of Islamic sovereignty. The commanders expressed their complete readiness for the consolidation of the base of the Islamic state, and announced that henceforth they would fight against the infamous militia to the last breath, in the ranks of the mojahedin and the Islamic Army forces.

25 Killed, 61 Injured in Kabul Rocket Attacks

LD0609174594 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1540 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] As a result of rockets fired by the Golboddin-Dostam militia on residential areas, 25 people were martyred and 61 others were wounded last night. A BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military correspondent reported to us that the rockets have generally hit residential and crowded areas of the city. As a result of a Sakar-type rocket, six members of a family were martyred in one house. The only surviving family member is a [words indistinct] child who had been to fetch water. The house has been completely destroyed. Another rocket landed in a crowded area where it martyred 10 people and injured more than 30 others. Five houses were also destroyed by the rockets, which have been fired into the city by Golboddin's militia. The rocket fire follows this force's recent defeats. Last night Radio Charasiab shamelessly announced that the residential areas would not be hit and nor would they hit them. But it is the people of Kabul who are martyred

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every day. Last night's rocket barrage was a manifestation of the savagery of the militia and an evidence of their lying. Security sources noted that the injured were taken to hospitals.

At Least 5 Factions Involved

LD0609200494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] At least five of the warring factions in Afghanistan fought against each other in Kabul and its vicinity today. According to a report from Kabul, the exchange of rockets and mortar shells between government forces and forces under the command of [Golboddin] Hekmatyar and General ['Abdol-Rashid] Dostam left the greatest number of dead.

The forces under the command of Hekmatyar and Gen. Dostam began firing heavy weapons against the Khayrkhanah residential area in northwestern Kabul. Their attacks continued until this morning. According to the same report, Hekmatyar's forces have also been fighting government forces in southwestern Kabul, near the old fortress of Kabul, and in Lowgar Province.

The report says at least 15 people have been killed and over 85 injured in the latest round of fighting in Kabul.

Government Claims Successes in Lowgar, Balkh, Ghowr

LD0609164394 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1430 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] This morning 34 militia members were killed in Pol-e Alam in Lowgar Province. A source attached to the 36th Jehadi Division told a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military correspondent that this morning the Golboddin-Dostam militia mounted an unsuccessful attack on security posts in Mirabdal. As a result of the resistance of the Islamic army and mojahedin, the militia's offensive was aborted. In a counterattack the mojahedin cleared Ilias Khan Kala and Nazir Ghondai of the Dostam-Golboddin militia and killed 34 of them. Five tanks of the militia were destroyed as well. Fighting still continues in Lowgar Province.

In the clearing-up operation carried out in Sholgara District, Balkh Province, a general of the Dostam militia was killed along with a number of his men. Reports received from Balkh Province says that mojahedin and forces of the Islamic army recently mounted a successful operation in Takana village in Sholgara District and cleared this areas of the Dostam militia. In the course of the operation, Haqnazar, one of Dostam's generals, was killed along with his deputy and 12 men. One DShK [machinegun] and 20 Kalashnikovs were captured.

Meanwhile, Chaghcharan, the center of Ghowr Province, and other districts of the province are now completely calm after a series of attacks by the Golboddin-Dostam militia. Reports received by BAKHTAR say that the Golboddin-Dostam militia recently disrupted peaceful life in the province of Ghowr and started a series of attacks in the province. The mojahedin and the Islamic army forces countered the savage attacks of the militia and inflicted many losses on them.

Offensive Reportedly Repulsed in Meydan Province

LD0609185094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1540 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] According to a report, an offensive of Golboddin's militia has been defeated in Seyyedabad District in Meydan Province. This morning the Golboddin-Dostam militia mounted an unsuccessful offensive in Sheykhabad area, Seyyedabad District, Meydan Province, where it was aborted. The militia lost several of their men in the offensive and a number of others were injured. One of their ringleaders was among the dead.

Bangladesh

Opposition Says Government Withdrawing From Talks

BK0309155594 Hong Kong AFP in English 1508 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 3 (AFP)—The Bangladeshi opposition on Saturday [3 September] accused Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's government of withdrawing from informal talks to end a parliament boycott.

"I think the government leader to the talks has withdrawn and the informal talks had failed because they have vitiated the atmosphere by attacking us," alleged acting opposition leader Abdus Samad Azad during a press briefing at parliament house.

He said the entire opposition was united and the people would respond with the "siege of Dhaka," set for September 10.

Azad was reacting to comments made by government ministers and Deputy House Leader Badruddoza Chowdhury during the last few days opposing the opposition demand for a constitutional amendment which would allow elections under a non-partisan interim government.

The opposition alleges fair polls are impossible under Zia's ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) government.

The development comes just days after Zia had said she was hopeful of reaching an understanding to end the opposition's six-month parliamentary boycott over the issue.

BNP Secretary General and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder was quoted by newspapers Saturday as saying that the opposition demand was "unconstitutional."

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"Caretaker government is a weak one and it cannot be the alternative to an elected government," he said at a party meeting Friday.

Azad said Chowdhury had made no contact with him in the last three days, claiming this was "back-tracking" by the government.

He added that the informal talks were an attempt by the government to distract people from the "siege," a planned massive demonstration in the capital.

He refused to say if the opposition would restart the talks if approached. Another opposition source said new talks could now only be held after the siege campaign.

The 330-member house was elected in 1991 in Bangladesh's first free elections since independence in 1971. The autumn session resumed Tuesday. The BNP has an absolute majority and elections are not scheduled until early 1996.

South Korean Prime Minister Pays Official Visit

Discusses Economic Issues With Zia

SK0409015894 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 4 Sep 94 pp 1, 2

[By correspondent Kim He-won]

[Text] Dhaka—Bangladesh has pledged to study favorably a South Korean request for assistance in becoming a non-standing member of the U.N. Security Council for 1996 and 1997. It also promised to support the South Korean bid to make its Trade Minister Kim Chol-su the first secretary-general of the World Trade Organization (WTO), to be inaugurated in January.

Meeting her South Korean counterpart Yi Yong-tok Saturday [3 September], Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia also voiced her hope that inter-Korean summit talks take place soon to solve the problems on the Korean Peninsula including the nuclear dispute.

The premier also accepted an invitation from President Kim Yong-sam to visit Seoul, saying that she would visit South Korea as soon as possible. Officials here said the premier will likely visit Seoul early next year.

Yi and Zia also agreed to set up a joint-venture paper mill in Bangladesh, they said. The two sides will soon decide which South Korean firm will work with the Bangladesh Chemical Industrial Corp. in this project.

South Korean Premier Yi, currently here on a three-day visit, offered to provide additional EDCF (Economic Development Cooperation Fund) loans to finance projects to build communication facilities and power plants in Bangladesh, if requested, as a way of making up for the heavy imbalance in bilateral trade in South Korea's favor, they said. Seoul has provided $14 million from the EDCF to build an electricity supply system in Rulna. South Korea's exports to Bangladesh amounted to $361 million in 1993, while it imported goods worth $6 million.

Premier Yi also told his counterpart of Seoul's plan to donate an additional $100,000 for Rohingya refugees in this country, following its first contribution of $50,000 in 1992.

Yi pledged Seoul's willingness to share its economic development experience and technology with Dhaka. South Korean officials said that the premier also promised that Korea increase grants to Bangladesh. Seoul provided $2.5 million in grants until 1993. Negotiations are underway between the two countries on a Korean plan to build a 30-bed "Korea-Bangladesh Friendship Hospital" by 1997, which is estimated to cost some $1 million in grants.

Prime Minister Yi told Zia that Seoul would allow an additional 500-1,000 workers from Bangladesh to work in South Korea, if requested, the Korean officials said. South Korea has taken in 20,000 laborers from Asian countries under a vocational training program. It plans to allow 10,000 more to come. One thousand and six hundred Bangladeshi laborers are working in South Korea under this program.

Bangladesh Premier Zia also showed an interest in the status of Bangladesh citizens illegally working in South Korea. Some 5,000 Bangladeshis have reported to the South Korean authorities concerning their illegal status but officials estimate that over 10,000 people are being employed illegally.

Yi, the highest ranking South Korean official ever to visit Bangladesh after the two countries set up diplomatic relations in 1973, also called on Bangladesh President Abdur Rahman Biswas at the presidential palace of Bangabhaban in the morning after a formal welcoming ceremony for him at the State Guest House.

Speeches Exchanged at Banquet

BK0409114294 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] Bangladesh and South Korea have called for utilization of opportunities offered by the free market system for mutual benefit of the people of the two friendly countries. The call was made at a banquet hosted by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia in honor of the visiting South Korean prime minister, Yi Yong-tok, in Dhaka last night. Speaking at the banquet, Begum Zia said very attractive opportunities have been created for foreign investment in Bangladesh. Bangladesh currency taka has been made fully convertible for all practical purposes and thus the foreigners can now easily repatriate capital profits and earnings. Begum Zia said export processing zones have been set up to encourage foreign investments. The prime minister called for stronger policy support from the South Korean Government to Korean investors to invest in Bangladesh. She said

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Bangladesh market is now open to the world. Consequently exports from South Korea to Bangladesh have grown much faster than Bangladesh's exports to Korea. Begum Zia said the serious trade imbalance is to be reduced on a priority basis. Her country expects that South Korea will create better opportunities for market access to Bangladesh's exports. The Uruguay Round and the Generalized System of Preferences, among others, enable South Korea to do so. She requested the South Korean leader that his government should [words indistinct] opportunities.

The prime minister said both the countries are committed to democracy and free market economy. There is much commonality in our experiences with democratic government. She said as members of the United Nations, both Bangladesh and South Korea have an abiding interest in global peace and security.

Prime Minister Yi in his remarks said since formal relations were established two decades ago, the two countries have forged a mutually beneficial relationship by promoting cooperation, not only the political and economic, but also the social and cultural. Mr. Yi said he felt very honored to be the first South Korean prime minister to visit Bangladesh since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1973. He said close collaboration between his country and Bangladesh in the international arena demonstrates that they cherish the global peace based on respect for human dignity and the rule of law. Commending Bangladesh for its significant role in promoting stability and prosperity in South Asia, Mr. Yi said as the initiator of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, SAARC, Bangladesh has striven for the development of the regional forum. The South Korean prime minister said the people of his country value the support of Bangladesh to the cause of enhancement of peace and stability of the Korean peninsula. He said his country will do its part to help make the bilateral ties with Bangladesh more substantial and durable. He expressed his firm belief that the land of golden fiber [jute] will emerge as a land of golden opportunity in the near future.

Cabinet ministers, MP's, diplomats, senior civil, and military officials attended the banquet.

Yi Yong-tok Ends Visit

BK0409131994 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1230 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] The prime minister of South Korea, Yi Yong-tok, was accorded a hearty send-off at Dhaka this afternoon at the end of his three-day official visit to Bangladesh. He was seen off at the Zia International Airport by Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman. Talking to newsmen at the airport, Mr. Mustafizur Rahman said the visit of the South Korean prime minister would help in further strengthening the bilateral relations between the two countries. He added that this visit would give a new dimension to this relationship. The foreign minister said that the South Korean leader expressed satisfaction over the visit and was hopeful that the existing bilateral trade between two countries would further expand.

Earlier, the South Korean prime minister visited a Korean [word indistinct] gas producing factory in the outskirts of Dhaka city. He was accompanied by the state minister for planning, Dr. Moin Khan. The products of this 100-percent export oriented factory is exported to the United States and Europe. The monthly earnings from these exports is estimated to be over $2 million. In March this year, the owners of this factory established a second unit of the factory at the Dhaka Export Processing Zone located in Savar.

India

Rao Departs on Visits to Vietnam, Singapore

BK0509061594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0435 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] The prime minister has left New Delhi for Hanoi on a five-day official visit to Vietnam and Singapore. He was seen off at the airport by his cabinet colleagues, the lieutenant governor of Delhi, and the chief ministers of Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. The charge d'affaires of Vietnam and the Singapore deputy high commissioner were also present at the airport to see off Mr. Narasimha Rao.

A warm and affectionate welcome awaits the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, when he arrives in Vietnam on a three-day visit in a few hours. Our Southeast Asia correspondent reports from Hanoi that Vietnamese leaders look forward to talks with Mr. Rao for increasing trade and investment between the two countries to a level reflecting the excellent political relations. The Indian delegation includes the minister in the prime minister's office, Mr. Bhuvanesh Chaturvedi, and the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia. Four agreements covering defense, Foreign Ministry consultations, easing visa restrictions, and avoiding double taxation will be signed at the end of the visit.

From Hanoi the prime minister will go to Singapore on Wednesday [7 September].

Labor Minister Leaves for Beijing

BK0409090794 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] The labor minister, Mr. P.A. Sangma, left for Beijing this morning on a seven-day visit to China. During his stay there, he will have discussions with his Chinese counterpart on various labor issues in view of the forthcoming ministerial meeting of developing and nonaligned countries being held in New Delhi next January. The minister, who is is accompanied by the labor secretary, will also visit Tokyo to study the industrial management responsible for higher productivity.

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South Korean Trade Minister Holds Talks

BK0409084394 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] The South Korean minister for trade and industry, Dr. Chol-su Kim, said India is likely to gain substantially from the Uruguay round accord in the agro sector. He said the agreement on agriculture provides increased opportunities for exports. Dr. Kim conveyed his views when he met the minister of state for commerce, Mr. Kamaluddin Ahmad, in New Delhi yesterday. Dr. Kim is a candidate for the post of director general of the proposed World Trade Organization. The two leaders also discussed bilateral trade matters. Mr. Kamaluddin Ahmad expressed the hope that India's trade deficit with South Korea would be narrowed down soon.

Spokesman Regrets Hurriyat Presence at ICO

BK0709010694 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] India today regretted that the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] is being misled by Pakistan to persisi in interfering in its internal affairs. The External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi it is not clear in what capacity the Srinagar-based All Parties Hurriyat Conference has been invited to the ICO foreign ministers conference in Islamabad. He pointed out that India is not a member of the ICO and said we do not see why the ICO secretary general should invite Indian citizens to participate in their conclave.

Pakistan Said Distributing Bombs Disguised as Fruit

BK0709044994 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] The Pakistani intelligence agency, ISI [Inter-Service Intelligence], has (?invented) an explosive device which closely resembles a coconut and can be placed in a fruit box to cause devastation. One such bomb was recovered recently from a Pakistan-trained militant apprehended by the Jammu and Kashmir police in the border district of Punch. The Jammu and Kashmir police claimed that the arrest of the militant was a major achievement to unearth several other schemes by the ISI to spread terrorism and subversion. The security agencies have, meanwhile, banned the sale of coconut inside the temples and shrines in Jammu as a precautionary measure.

Meanwhile, in the state, 10 militants including six hardcore were killed in separate encounters with the security forces and in intergroup clashes.

Scientists Claim Nuclear Installations Well Guarded

BK0209160794 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 29 Aug 94 p 9

[Text] Bombay—The recent disclosures of plutonium being smuggled from Russia to Pakistan via Germany has brought forth the serious issue of security of nuclear installations within the country and the protection offered against removing radioactive material from its premises.

Experts say that the safest and most conventional means of transporting plutonium, uranium and other radioactive material is to convert them into their metallic state. The question is, just how careful can smugglers be when the transport is conducted in a clandestine manner, without the benefit of the usual safety measures.

The issue assumes serious proportions given the fatal nature of radioactive leaks. Assuming dealers and transporters take adequate precautions when handling volatile materials like plutonium, the danger still remains. In case of accident the extent of damage that a radioactive spill could cause is immense.

India's atomic experts are wary about openly commenting on the issue. They strongly deny the possibility of any case of plutonium smuggling within the country, but caution against a complacent attitude.

Director of Health, Safety and Environment of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) U C Mishra said that while it may be safe to carry plutonium in small consignments, five to six kilograms of the material was as good as carrying a hydrogen bomb.

It is known that if plutonium comes into contact with water or carbon it is liable to explode immediately. For this reason it is generally stored in lead containers.

Stating that the theft of a radioactive substance was a serious matter, Director of the Physics group of BARC S S Kapoor expressed amazement that smuggling of such sensitive material as plutonium went undetected for so long.

He said that radioactive material cannot be transported without aid from trained personnel. "To escape detection plutonium must have been concealed in red mercury solution and stored in lead containers," he added.

Kapoor, however, was careful to defend Indian security measures. He dismissed the contamination caused in Madras last year by stolen radioactive material as "minor" and said, "smuggling plutonium from Indian nuclear installations is impossible because there are 1001 checks at each and every point."

He said that India has a long-term peaceful plan on the uses of uranium and its pressurised heavy water reactors burnt radium as fuel and produced plutonium only as an end product.

He conceded that in case of a spill the contamination would remain for a very long time and India lacked the facilities or infrastructure to deal with such a situation at short notice.

Though the authorities concerned were cagey about almost all aspects of this sensitive issue, some did agree to talk to Indian Express on condition of anonymity.

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A top scientist spoke about India's breeder reactor technology plant at Kalpakam, Madras, and said there was no question of breach of security in India vis-a-vis the stock of plutonium. He, however, refused to comment on India's reserves of plutonium.

He said, "India's progress in the nuclear field is at par with any developed country. India possesses the technology of the fuel cycle, mining of uranium and converting it into fuel energy and reprocess and recycle waste."

The crises management group which attends to emergencies like the Latur earthquake or the Union Carbide tragedy at Bhopal, refused to consider the possibility of plutonium or other radioactive material being left unguarded in the country which might cause fatal accidents.

Iran

Velayati Views Oman Visit, Regional Issues

LD0609162794 Tehran IRNA in English 1406 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 6, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here Tuesday [6 September] that Tehran-Muscat relations were based on "friendship and peaceful coexistence". Velayati made the remark in a press conference after winding up his visit to Oman at the invitation of his Omani counterpart Yusuf Bin-'Alawi.

Asked whether the issue of the three islands of the Lesser and Greater Tunbs and Abu Musa had been raised at his meetings with Bin-'Alawi and Sultan Qabus and what was Iran's position towards the issue, Velayati said bilateral, regional and international issues were the main subjects discussed and there were no specific discussions about the islands. He said the two parties held common views about regional cooperation and detente and considered regional security to be dependent on such cooperation. The Iranian official underlined that regional states themselves should solve their problems and not allow foreigners to intervene in regional affairs under any pretext.

Velayati said Iran and the United Arab Emirates were two "important" neighbors which shared age-old history and that they should live peacefully and friendly. He expressed hope that the two countries would resume their talks halted without any logical justification.

On Iran's opposition to PLO-Tel Aviv accord, Velayati said the Iranian government believed that the Palestinian nation should be given their rights, but the Gaza-Jericho agreement did not restore these rights and for the same reason many Palestinians opposed it.

Velayati added that the accord was doomed and could not solve the Palestinian nation's problems. He said as a Muslim state, Iran felt responsibility towards the issue and sympathized with Palestinian nation.

As for regional cooperation, the minister commented that Tehran believed such cooperation was possible just by the regional states.

He termed Iraq as an "important" country and nation which should be given untmost attention and regretted that the country was engulfed with domestic problems.

Velayati said Tehran-Muscat cooperation was of significance and that the two sides were keen to expand full-fledged relations, including defense cooperation. Asked on expansion of commercial cooperation between Iran and Oman and implementation of joint projects by the two countries, Velayati said there were no restrictions on this way and this proved the two sides' political determination.

Velayati expressed hope that the economic sanctions on Iraq would be lifted and that Tehran was eager to help the Iraqi people solve their problems and to establish good relations with Iraq within the framework of international regulations.

Referring to the controversy over the question of abortion in the ongoing UN Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, Velayati said Islam's position towards the issue was clear. Muslim states and certain western countries held different views on such subjects as illegal sexual intercourse, something which all Muslim ulama oppose. He added that Muslims with all of their might have stood against such extremist measures devised by certain western states to mar relations between Islamic societies with other countries.

Switching to Tehran-Buenos Aires bilateral relations, Velayati said Argentine officials have confessed to their "unfounded" claims and it became evident that Israel was behind the issue.

Asked on women's status in Iran, Velayati answered that women's rights were based on Islamic regulations and their personality.

Referring to his recent visit to the UAE as Iran's last measure, Velayati reiterated that Iran has strived for continuation of the talks. More on the three islands, Velayati said talks between Iran and the UAE should continue without preconditions and in a friendly climate. He said Iran had done its best to solve the problem and he had visited the UAE as a good-will gesture and extended an invitation to the UAE foreign minister to visit Iran which he had accepted and "we are waiting for him."

Croat Ambassador Summoned To Explain Arrest

LD0709103994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] In the wake of a report released on 5 September by the Bosnia-Herzegovina news agency about the arrest by

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some extremist Croats inside Bosnia of Seyyed Mohammad Hoseyn Navvab, a journalist from the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] working in Bosnia-Herzegovina, our country's Foreign Ministry director general for the central and northern Europe for the second time today summoned to the Foreign Ministry Osman Muftic, the ambassador of the Republic of Croatia in Tehran, and asked him to explain the situation. During this meeting, Navvab's arrest by the Croats was strongly protested and the Croat ambassador and government were asked to take speedy measures to secure his release.

The Croat ambassador in Tehran expressed regret for the matter and, while thanking the IRI's efforts to assist the Bosnia-Herzegovina government [as heard], promised to employ all his efforts and his country's resources for a speedy release of the said person.

Yazdi Cited on German Spy, Satellite Dishes, Argentina

LD0709101994 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Excerpts] The head of judiciary, Mohammad Yazdi, speaking to domestic and foreign reporters this morning, termed the implementation of law by the public and revolution courts in the country as an essential work of the judicial branch to transform the state judicial system. [passage omitted]

About the allegations made by a German spy after being released from prison, Mr. Yazdi denied the allegations and said: Before being released, he himself wrote down some things and if it becomes necessary, we will publish them.

About the trial of the Monafeqin [members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] on charge of their recent crime of murdering two priests, Mr. Yazdi said: The file of this crime is under investigation and is going through the final stages.

In connection with removal of the satellite receiver dishes, the head of judiciary said: In accordance with understanding and interpretation of the Islamic revolution courts' judges, the programs broadcast by satellite transmitters are clear examples of spreading corruption; and for this same reason their response vis-a-vis this problem is legal.

The head of judicial branch also, terming the allegations of the Argentine judge on involvement of the Iranian diplomats in the Buenos Aires bomb explosion as baseless, said: Unfortunately the Argentine judge has accused four of our diplomats. As a result they, while demanding restitution of their honor and prestige, are seriously pursuing this matter.

UK Intelligence Reportedly Helped Supply Missiles

MS0409145894 London THE SUNDAY TIMES in English 4 Sep 94 p 2

[Report by David Leppard: "MI6 in on Deal For Iran Missiles"]

[Text] The British secret intelligence service, MI6, helped a prominent London arms dealer and Tory party donor to supply more than 350m pounds of anti-ship missiles to Iran.

The Chinese-made Silkworm missile was the most powerful weapon Iran had during its eight-year war with Iraq. It was used by Iran to attack Western ships, injuring 18 merchant seamen, among them two British officers.

Details of the secret missile deal, codenamed "the October contract", are disclosed in legal documents due to be filed in a German court. The documents, seen by The Sunday Times, form the basis of a claim by Mohammed Hashemi, Iranian-born managing director of the British arms firm, Tagell, for compensation over an unpaid 10m commission for acting as middleman in the deal.

MI6 first learned about the Silkworm deal in 1985. It dispatched an undercover female agent on a "business trip" to China. She posed as a secretary to Hashemi, who visited China at least 10 times in the negotiations.

Last year The Sunday Times revealed that Hashemi once a fugitive from the American FBI over alleged illegal arms deals, donated 5,000 pounds to the Conservative party in 1991.

Michael Palmer, Hashemi's lawyer, said that his client was taking legal action in the regional court in Munich against Ibcol Technical Services, a German firm which represented the Chinese government in the sale of the missiles to Iran.

Palmer said he could not discuss the involvement of MI6. But a senior legal source said the agency was kept fully informed. "They knew all about the Silkworm deal," the source said. "It was their job to know. They were talking to all the people involved."

Government policy, laid down by Sir Geoffrey Howe, then foreign secretary, in 1985 banned the sale of equipment which would "significantly enhance" the military capability of either side in the Iran-Iraq war. Howe said Britain "refused to allow the supply of lethal equipment to either side". But MI6 wanted to monitor the arms deal to ensure that Iraq did not outstrip Iran in the arms race.

The Silkworm DF-5, the type sold by Tagell to Iran, is a subsonic radar-guided missile capable of hitting ships at a range of 55 miles.

The Iranians installed the Silkworms at the port of Bandar Abbas and along the Gulf coast in June 1987 in

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an attempt to block Western shipping transporting Iraqi oil. In October that year Silkworms seriously damaged an American-owned supertanker, the Sungari. A second Silkworm attack the next day crippled the Sea Isle City, an American-flagged tanker. The attack injured 18 crewmen, among them Patrick Parker, the British chief engineer, and the chief officer, also a Briton. The ship's American captain was blinded.

Parker said this weekend he was horrified to learn of Britain's involvement in the deal. "The whole thing leaves a very sour taste in my mouth. There were plenty of British seamen in the Gulf at the time. To think that your own countrymen are supplying the other side with weapons that are then coming back at you is incredible," he said.

The attacks provoked an outcry from the United States which was unaware of the involvement of MI6 and the British firm. They also led Margaret Thatcher, then prime minister, to order the reinforcement of the Armilla patrol, the Royal Navy task force.

At his penthouse flat in Victoria, central London Hashemi said he was angry he had not been paid his commission on the Silkworm deal. He said he had stopped selling arms and now traded in commodities.

Editorial Sees Need for Asian Alliance To Oppose U.S.

NC0609114294 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 30 Aug 94 pp 1, 4

[Editorial: "The Great Powers of Asia and the Formation of a Fourth Pole"]

[Excerpts] First Vice President Hasan Habibi has visited the PRC at the head of a high-level politico-economic delegation. It is expected that in the course of this visit, and during his talks with the senior officials of the PRC the regional situation, bilateral relations, and future economic cooperation between the two major political and economic poles of the Asian continent will be discussed. [passage omitted]

The distinctive nature of the contemporary world, which is in a transitional period, demands that the powers in the Asian region should forge closer constructive ties—in short, strategic cooperation to guarantee their survival in the world of the 21st century in all political, economic, and cultural fields. The experience of the Persian Gulf War clearly proved that, in view of U.S. military power, giving all kinds of green lights to Washington or ignoring international developments results not only in attacks on one country or another but can also prove catastrophic for the very existence of the Third World.

With the forging of new political alliances on the international level and the changes in international balances, strategic unions are vital and mandatory for all Asian countries that do not want to be in the orbits the U.S., European, or even Japanese pole or be relegated to being marginal "appendages."

In fact, the era the United States envisions, where it will be the only power center in the world, has not yet taken shape. Close and consistent cooperation among the bigger independent countries such as the Islamic Republic of Iran, the PRC, Kazakhstan, and even Pakistan can be viewed in this context. High technology, unique manpower, limitless energy resources, and the enviable economic growth of these countries can all be molded into a firm and reliable "fourth pole" in Asia with the advent of the 21st century. Time is passing by swiftly; this opportunity should not be lost.

Afghanistan Urged To Cooperate With ICO, UN

LD0709110194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1002 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Text] Afghanistan's development is the title of today's last political commentary:

At a time when the fighting is intensively continuing in Afghanistan, two processes have been taken up to halt the gunfire in that country.

The Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], which began its work today in Islamabad, has devoted one of the main topics of the talks to Afghanistan's crisis and ways to end the crisis.

At the same time, the third stage of the efforts by the UN special envoy in affairs of Afghanistan to resolve that country's crisis has began.

The continuation of the UN activities is taking place in the view of the fact that all the political and military leaders of Afghanistan have common views on formation of an assembly to appoint an interim government in Afghanistan.

However, the problem is that the method and the ways to form this assembly has become a disputed issue. Therefore, the UN envoy intends to use his maximum efforts to close the gap in the stance taken by the warring sides.

In the belief of the political analysts, if the efforts of the ICO and United Nations were to be implemented with more coordination, finding a solution to end Afghanistan's crisis is not beyond expectation.

The reality is that 26 months of fighting and bloodshed has so far not helped to bring Afghanistan's crisis to an end. It added to the extent of crisis and killing and displacement of a large strata of Afghanistan.

The current situation in Kabul too manifests the grave consequences of the continuation of the crisis. At the present, production units and economic centers of Afghanistan and in particular Kabul city have been destroyed. A large number of people are unemployed

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and the high inflation in Kabul, which was one of the cheapest cities of the world, has created an unfortunate situation for the people of this country. In general, Afghanistan's economic and human resources, which are considered the essential needs of this country, are moving toward destruction.

It seems that in order to be free from such a tragedy, the logical and reasonable way out is that the political and military leaders of Afghanistan adjust their demands and began extensive cooperation with more flexibility with the ICO and United Nations to resolve the crisis in Afghanistan.

Turkish Government Said Concerned by Welfare Party Power

NC0209151794 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 29 Aug 94 p 3

[From the News Desk]

[Text] The most bitter phenomenon that has happened in Turkey during the past five months for the United States, Europe, and the Ankara government has been the victory of the Refah Party in the municipal elections.

The head of the Welfare [Refah] Party, Necmettin Erbakan, who is on a visit to Tehran to participate in the international conference on "Bosnia-Herzegovina—Future Prospects," gave a brief interview to the political correspondent of the JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI newspaper. He said: At present, the greatest headache for the United States and Europe in Turkey is the power achieved by the Muslims, especially the victory of the Welfare Party in the recent elections.

During the course of the interview, Erbakan, who is an influential politician in Turkey, said: The joint objective of the West and the Turkish Government is to stifle the growing power of the Welfare Party by all possible means, especially since the elections in March. In the past four months, the Turkish Government has made many changes in the rules and regulations governing the functions of the municipalities. Because of these changes, the mayors have lost their former independence of action and are being forced to obtain permission from the Turkish Government for all their actions. The Ankara Government has to be informed of even the simplest program before its implementation.

Erbakan added: Among the issues that Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller discussed with Clinton in her recent visit to the United States was the level of popular influence of the Islamic Welfare Party. Ciller emphatically asked the U.S. President to assist the Ankara Government to find ways to control the activities of the Welfare Party to restrict its power and influence in Turkish society.

In conclusion, Erbakan added: The Muslim nation of Turkey and those who believe in the rightful Islam will never succumb to any kind of pressure and are not intimidated by the political atmosphere being whipped up by the secular government.

It is noteworthy that the Welfare Party in Turkey scored a victory in the elections in March and was able to emerge as a strong presence in the country's political scene.

Impact of Morocco-Israel Relations on Area Viewed

NC0309150494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Commentary by News Research and Commentary Group]

[Text] The Moroccan Information Ministry and the Zionist regime's Foreign Ministry have announced their decision to set up liaison offices on both sides. According to political analysts, this action is a step toward the establishment of official relations between these two regimes.

According to comment in the Zionist regime's publications yesterday, the subsequent stages will include relations on the same level with Tunis and one of the emirates in the Persian Gulf, probably with Oman. Despite the fact that the Tunisian authorities consider this a mere rumor, the visits by the Zionist regime's citizens to Tunis with the official permission of that country indicate that the establishment of relations between Tunis and the Zionist regime does not seem too farfetched.

According to political experts, the broadening of relations between the Zionist regime and Arab countries is one of the main repercussions of the signing of the Gaza-Jericho Accord, which are now transpiring. The Palestinians' action in signing this compromise accord eliminated the impediments in forging relations with the Zionist regime in one fell swoop, and rendered the emergence of such peripheral effects justifiable to a certain extent.

These analysts add that the infiltration of the Zionist regime into the Arab world has increased pressure on Syria and Lebanon to join the compromise. For the past three years, and with extensive U.S. support, the Zionist regime is seeking to compromise with Arab countries on the occupied Palestinian territories, and in this manner, it wishes to forge a regional coordination system in the sensitive Middle East region, spearheaded by Israel.

The establishment of relations between the Arab countries and the Zionist regime—prior to clarifying the fate of the usurped territories—is tantamount to collaboration with this regime against Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinian people. This is because if the Zionist regime believes that entrance into the Arab world without a

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compromise with Syria and Lebanon and a partial withdrawal from occupied territories is possible, this regime will adopt a more difficult stance before the Arab countries.

More fallout from the establishment of relations is that this regime's aggressive attitude would continue against the regional Muslims. A change in the approach by the Arab countries toward the Zionist regime—while this regime's hostile behavior continues against the Lebanese people and the occupied areas of Palestine—will bolster the belief among the Zionists that its aggressive conduct against the Muslim people of the region is a natural phenomenon that should continue.

These collective repercussions raise the question: To what extent will the Arab governments play a role henceforth, in the plot to exert pressure on Syria and Lebanon, and in the aggression against the Muslim people in Lebanon and Palestine, by establishing relations with the Zionist regime?

Khamene'i: Clinton 'Incapable' of Solving Problems

LD0709111694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 7 Sep 94

[Excerpts] His Eminence Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, at a meeting with a large group of Hezbollahi ummah this morning, praised some of the great gains of the Islamic revolution. [passage omitted]

Referring to the pressure, vilifications, and threats of the United States and its European allies against the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI], Khamene'i said: The present President of the United States is incapable of solving his country's problems, and the pressure exerted for a settlement between the Arabs and Israel is an endeavor to satisfy the American people. The United States and its allies consider the IRI to be the main obstacle against this shameful sell-out deal; and for this reason are subjecting Iran to pressure and intimidation. However, despite this, Islamic Iran has stood firm on its principled and justified stances and continues to stress that Israel should be eliminated. [passage omitted]

The esteemed leader said the vilifications, slanders, and false propaganda of U.S., British, and Zionist media against the IRI is something natural and what we should expect. Khamene'i added: What else can we expect to hear from the enemies of Islam and those powers that received a blow from the Islamic revolution except the allegations of human rights violation, violation of women's rights, claims that there is no democracy, and denial of clear facts?

However, the fair-minded people of the world have confessed to the fact that there is no other government as popular as the IRI anywhere in the Middle East. [passage omitted]

Press Comments on Clinton's 'Spiteful Remarks'

Wants 'To Confront' Iran

NC0409084994 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 27 Aug 94 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Satan's Rage"]

[Text] In his spiteful remarks to a gathering of Jewish members of the "Zionist Foundation" in Chicago, the U.S. President once again spoke about his and international Zionism's wish to completely crush the Islamic movement and to confront the Islamic Republic of Iran. And for the umpteenth time, he called on Europe to put pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran, admitting that it is his Administration's clear-cut policy to weaken and isolate the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Their call for the European countries and some economic powers in the East to pressure the Islamic Republic of Iran has been given high priority on the joint agenda of the U.S. Administration and the Zionist regime. However, not only have all these efforts so far failed, but Washington and Tel Aviv are becoming more and more disgraceful each day in their propaganda efforts against the Islamic Republic of Iran. A good example of this is the Buenos Aires explosion.

The recent proposals by Israel and the United States to Germany as the head of the European Community [EC] for cutting back on relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the decisive and negative replies by Germany—or actually, by the EC—are crystal clear, which unfortunately an unerudite President like Clinton cannot understand. The vast potential of the system of the Islamic Republic and its stability and power in today's unstable world prevent America and Israel from fulfilling their wishes. This is a fact that fortunately the leaders of the world powers understand today; and it is precisely this that has enraged the great Satan.

The Democratic Party of the United States, which has a clear record of unsuccessful confrontations with the Muslim and revolutionary nation of Iran, has once again joined hands with world Zionism because of Mr. Clinton's bungling and it is repeating the same loosing experiences. The Reagan and Bush administrations also had bitter experiences in their confrontations with the Islamic Republic of Iran—experiences that can be good lessons for the White House rulers of today. But despite all these ruinous experiences, it is still not clear why Clinton's Secretary of State Christopher repeatedly visits Europe and the Middle East each month and does not want to learn from the failures of the past secretaries of state! These visits are intended to silence Iran's comments on the compromise talks on Palestine and force it to abandon its Islamic principles. These are all dreams which Washington and Tel Aviv will never see come true.

At any rate, it would be good for the American president to realize that America has now been demoted to the

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rank of a disrespectful Zionist lackey. The Muslim, powerful, and revolutionary nation of Iran, which considers the U.S. Administration to be the great Satan, interprets the U.S. president's rage against the Islamic Republic of Iran as a weakness and it is fully aware that the more enraged the Satan is, the greater the weakness it shows.

Terrorism Charges Ridiculed

NC0609123294 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 27 Aug 94 p 16

[Editorial: "Who Is the Terrorist? Who Is the Enemy of Peace?"]

[Text] In his latest stance against the Islamic Republic of Iran stated while addressing a group of American Jewry, the U.S. President described Iran as being behind a series of world terrorist movements! He said that Iran's attitude and behavior would no longer be tolerated! In his speech he asked the Middle Eastern countries to allow the Middle East peace trend to forge ahead.

Clinton's utterances came one day before Iran's request that the United States tender an official apology regarding its accusations regarding the explosion at the Jewish center in Buenos Aires. It was expected that Clinton would officially apologize to Iran, but apparently he and his associates do not wish to open their eyes to reality.

It appears from Clinton's remarks that he is more concerned with the slow pace of the Middle East peace trend rather than the Buenos Aires explosion, since the Islamic awakening in Egypt and Jordan and its growth in the occupied Palestinian territories has reached its climax. He realizes that all that has been compiled under the name of the Camp David accord or has been put on paper by Washington has no historical significance nor are these documents officially recognized by the countries in the region.

Now one should ask: Who is the one behind the series of terrorist movements around the world and who is defending terrorism?

The representatives of the blackest terrorist group in the world, the Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization], openly consort with U.S. Congressmen and enjoy the support of the CIA. From them they receive training in terrorism so they can blow up holy sites in Iran and murder religious minorities there!

At present, the Zionist regime's armed forces are under the umbrella of political and military support by the Clinton Administration, and south Lebanon is being pounded with bombs and missiles daily while in the occupied territories peaceful demonstrations are answered with a hail of bullets!

The U.S. Administration bares its fangs and talons every day against the people of Haiti, who live in constant fear of an attack on their country at any minute!

If they can ride roughshod over the people of the world so mercilessly, is it not likely that they may be the ones who were responsible for the Buenos Aires explosion?! Even though the Argentine chief prosecutor has declared that there is not enough documentary evidence to implicate Iran, why does the U.S. Government insist in pouring out its prolific lies? Clinton says he will not tolerate Iran's attitude and behavior!

The question that arises is: Has the U.S. Administration been able to tolerate the Islamic Revolution of Iran in this part of the planet even for a minute? It has spared no effort to do whatever it could against Iran—from staging coups d'etat and a full-fledged war to using blind and merciless terrorist operations and imposing an economic embargo—all of which testify to the abject impotence of the United States, which is not ready to allow the banner of Islam to be hoisted in any part of the world.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Khamene'i said in his address to the Iranian ambassadors and charges d'affaires as well as foreign guests: "In the eyes of the enemies of Islam, the Islamic Republic of Iran's adherence to Islam, independence, and national interests is a crime. In our opinion it is the secret of the success, power, and perpetuation of the Islamic system."

Today, it is no secret to anyone that the conduct and attitude of the Islamic Republic of Iran are based on the Koran and the Sunnah [traditions] of the Prophet of God (peace be upon him). One must ask Mr. Clinton why he is not ready to tolerate the implementation of the Koranic injunctions in a Muslim country. Why is adherence to Islam a crime in the eyes of the White House chieftains so that they brand it as "terrorism?"

What right does the U.S. President have to decide what should be the "attitude" and "conduct" of independent countries across the oceans?

We are followers of the Prophet, who is the blessing of the worlds, the proclaimer of the peace, fraternity, and equality of mankind on earth. Those who are treading the path of war, bloodshed, and the massacre of civilians spearheaded by the United States are enemies of Iran which is opposed to tyranny, destruction, and corruption on this earth.

Washington should refrain from actions that result in war and bloodshed and should seek the true peace which the oppressed and Muslim nations are seeking. The true followers of the holy Prophet of Islam are bound to follow and implement the Divine injunctions on this earth and to stand steadfast in the face of the avarice and idle gibberish of the United States. The people of the world consider the United States the enemy of peace and the White House officials as the true defenders of terrorism!

Paper Discusses U.S., Zionist 'Plots'

NC0509195394 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 27 Aug 94 p 2

[Commentary by 'Alireza Sarbakhsh: "Unmasked Explosions and Assassinations"]

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[Text] Martin Indyk, a Zionist theoretician of Australian origin, Yitzhaq Shamir's former press adviser, and a current member of the Committee on Israeli-U.S. Relations, had this to say in one of his speeches in Washington regarding the need for a new U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf:

"U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf should be based on the strategy of dual containment. The United States should make the best possible use of the exceptional situation that has risen after Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. The Iranian and Iraqi Governments have shown that neither can be trusted. And no one can be relied on or trusted to contain either of the two regional powers. The United States should contain both with its presence in the region and through the necessary policies. Saddam's attack on Kuwait created an exceptional opportunity for us to be able to control Iraq and to contain Saddam's forces through the Security Council and by imposing resolutions on it. But confronting Iran is not as simple as confronting Iraq, and since Iran has not made any illogical attempts and has not commited aggressions against a country such as Iraq did, we cannot use the same pretext to place it under control through the Security Council and with international resolutions."

What is gleaned from Martin Indyk's remarks is that the enemies of Islam are trying to paint an ugly face on the Islamic revolution of Iran and thus to pave the way for UN resolutions against Iran so that they can place Iran, like Iraq, under their control. Within this context, we see how after the Buenos Aires explosion at the Jewish center, Argentine President Carlos Menem—for the first time since the creation of the United Nations—took a domestic issue to the Security Council.

The scenario that was envisaged had two dimensions—domestic and foreign. Regarding the domestic dimension, the explosions at the holy shrine of Imam Reza and at the Maki Mosque of the Sunnis in Zahedan were to pit Shiites and Sunnis against each other, while—with the assassination of the Christian pastors in Iran—propaganda would be sparked around the world, claiming that religious minorities in Iran are under pressure and that their rights are being violated; hence the need for effective steps to save them.

Within the same context, we can see how after the assassination of the Christian pastors, the U.S. secretary of state stated that religious minorities in Iran are being suppressed and that Iran should be forced to stop such violent acts. But with God's help we saw how the domestic scenario failed through the alertness of the esteemed leader, officials, and the Iranian people and with the arrest of the bombers.

But let us see how the foreign dimension of the scenario was pursued. An impostor and CIA agent falsely claimed in Buenos Aires that he was an Iranian diplomat and that he had precise information on Iran's terrorist activities. In order to prove that his information was correct, the enemies of Iran stated on his behalf that during the next couple of days explosions would take place against Israeli interests in London.

After a few days these explosions did take place in London, thus proving the existence of a formerly engineered plot against Iran. The British Government was aware a few days before that explosions were to take place against Israeli interests. But despite this information, nothing was done to prevent them. All these are of extreme importance and call for deeper examination.

The Buenos Aires, London, and Panama explosions took place at a time when the Arab-Israeli peace process is progressing to the benefit of the Zionist regime in the Middle East and when a second Arab country is on the verge of overtly recognizing Israel's existence.

What worries Israel and the reactionary Arab leaders more than anything else is the further culmination of the intifadah and of Iran's opposition to the peace process. The enemies of Islam believe they should punish the major opponent of this process and prevent it from playing a determining role. The trap that was set for Iran by world arrogance was labelled the fight against terrorism, and the grounds for global acceptance of this fight were created.

But frankly speaking, who were the perpetrators of the bombings in Buenos Aires and in other places? We believe that Israel itself engineered and hatched this inhuman plan with the cooperation of America. The question that may arise is: How can Israel agree to sacrifice its own citizens for the sake of its interests? The answer is that this is not the first time; America and Israel have resorted to such acts in the past. There is no doubt today that the perpetrator of the explosion on the plane carrying Ziaul Haq and the American ambassador in Pakistan were the Americans themselves, who wanted to remove Ziaul Haq, and that in order to remove all suspicion from the minds of world public opinion and Pakistani officials, they sacrificed their own ambassador.

As for Israel, there are sufficient documents to prove that in order to force Jews living in Arab countries to settle in Israel, Israeli security agents attack and kill these Jews in a bid to blame Muslims, to show that the countries the Jews live in are unsafe, and thus to force them to emigrate to occupied Palestine. The records of the United States and Israel show that they use any and all means to achieve their ends and that both of them are capable of repeating past actions. A few days before the Buenos Aires explosion, Israel removed all the important documents from the building to a safer place. This is something that calls for deeper examination.

Portraying Iran as the perpetrator of the explosion and the supporter of terrorism on the international scene incites public opinion against Iran, thus placing the United Nations and the Security Council under pressure to issue serious resolutions against Iran that can be used by world arrogance to hatch its plots and policies in the

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Middle East. Contradictory comments by Argentine officials showed that America and Israel want to attribute the explosion to Iran by pressuring Buenos Aires.

If the documents are as reliable as America and Israel insist, the Argentine Government would have identified Iran as the perpetrator from the very start. But the existing doubts and contradictions in comments by Argentine officials show that these documents are legally invalid.

In this context, the stand of some of America's European and Asian allies is noteworthy. Despite pressures by America and the Zionist regime, the governments of Germany, France, and Japan have not been prepared to identify Iran as the perpetrator and to reduce their political and economic relations with Tehran. The logical opposition by German officials to the inopportune demand by the Israeli foreign minister to isolate Iran is praiseworthy. It is hoped that other countries in the world, especially Argentina, will adopt independent and correct stands far from political hullabaloos and will not give in to the inopportune demands by America and international Zionism. And, above all, coordination among the Muslims of the world can—on its own—play a determining and decisive role in neutralizing the sinister plots of arrogance against Islam and the Muslims.

U.S. Position on Gas Accord Criticized

NC0209112394 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 25 Aug 94 pp 1, 15

[From the "Weekly Political Analysts" column: "Central Asia—Determination To Maintain Supremacy"]

[Text] Regional cooperation among major countries in the world of Islam is one of the genuine proofs of unity among nations. This week the final agreement on the construction of a gas pipeline that will transfer Central Asian gas to Europe through the Islamic Republic of Iran was signed, and construction of the pipeline started in the presence of the presidents of Iran and Turkmenistan.

This immense project will be able to transfer gas from the Central Asian countries to the heart of Europe. Agreement on this is considered as a great victory in the region and will lead to more sincere cooperation among the Islamic countries in the area.

All this has taken place at a time when America and the Zionists have been spreading venom against the Islamic Republic of Iran in a bid to prevent unity and concord among the region's countries and to prevent Central Asian governments from cooperating with the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is very clear that America and the Zionists will not remain idle and, despite their futile efforts, will strive to spread more venom.

In a commentary, the American news agency AP described the signing of the agreement on transferring Central Asian gas to Europe as an economic-political coup against America, alleging that America had rights in this and that this act was a step against American rights.

Naturally, America regards the Central Asian countries as a good "morsel" and is trying to exploit the disorderly situation and the natural conditions that exist in the Central Asian republics after the declaration of their independence in order to impose its hellish diktat on these countries and to exploit them.

America is trying to humiliate the Central Asian countries and to force them to stand in line in front of the White House and to extend a begging hand for help. But these countries have enormous wealth and the right to ensure their own supremacy over this wealth. Central Asia has no need to beg from America.

The signing of the gas transfer agreement has shown that Central Asia has the necessary political determination to preserve its independence and territorial integrity and that, above all, it has the necessary determination to maintain its full supremacy. This agreement has shown that the Central Asian countries know their friends from their foes and that they will not be affected by America's hostile admonishments when it comes to cooperating with their friends.

As very beautifully put by [Turkmen President Saparmurad] Niyazov, the construction of this pipeline is a victory for all the countries involved and will pave the way for cooperation and more profound friendship and understanding. This agreement can be considered a good pattern for extensive regional cooperation among the Muslim and neighboring countries in the region, and as a pattern for how all governments can ensure their needs within the framework of regional cooperation.

If Europe needs gas and energy and if Turkmenistan is unable to directly supply these needs, Islamic Iran will offer all it can to its Turkmen brothers and will create the necessary link to help transfer Turkmen gas to the heart of Europe. This understanding will further consolidate future cooperation. Central Asia is expected to become a fine manifestation of regional understanding and cooperation in the future. God willing.

Editorial Sees Need To Comprehend U.S. Policy

NC0709092694 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 28 Aug 94 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "The Secret of the Perpetuation of the Islamic System"]

[Excerpts] In his most overt stance against Iran, Bill Clinton referred to two points which are very important for us to understand. The first point mentioned by Clinton was: "Our policy is very clear; its aim is to weaken and isolate Iran." The second point is that Clinton calls on his allies and like minded persons to combat Iran, which he considers essential. These two

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policies are the outcome of the internal problems of the United States, which are manifested in U.S. foreign policy. [passage omitted]

Despite the problems and difficulties in its path, the Islamic Revolution continues on its course. The situation in Algeria, Egypt, and Tunisia is explosive. Iraq is in utter disarray and the situation in Saudi Arabia is quite nebulous. We face the possibility of the rapid advent of uncontrollable phenomena. It is against such a backdrop that the United States has adopted a new policy and course of action that is only expedient and more reactive than active.

The main objective of this policy is to resolve the problems of the Zionists. Clinton is so openly attempting to show that since it is opposed to the trend of compromise in the Middle East, Iran is opposed to international security. His former cohorts in the West do not take him seriously and do not believe him. The overt union of the United States, Israel, and Britain—which is pursuing a politico-propagandist policy—is a corollary of the above statement, and all other matters are also affected by it. [passage omitted]

We are in the midst of decisive circumstances, as the leader of our revolution said in his recent address. The United States and the Zionists do not want us to be independent, and this means that Clinton must have told them that if the Islamic system were to forego its independence and agree to the trend of compromise in the Middle East, everything would be resolved. This is the most vulnerable point of the United States and the Zionists. Our politicians and officials should have a correct and principled perception of these matters and should base their plans accordingly.

This outcry stems from the natural fear and perturbation of one who has lost his power; it should not intimidate us. At the same time, we should not treat it casually, because the interests of our system and our nation demand that we should think correctly and act within the framework of our national interests.

Opposition Groups Issue Statement on Tabriz Unrest

NC0409064594 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 3 Sep 94

[Joint statement issued by the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran, the Organization of the Union of the Iranian People's Feda'iyan, the Organization of the Iranian People's Feda'iyan Guerrillas-Minority, and the Organization of Iran's Revolutionary Workers-Rah-e Kargar on 22 August; place not given]

[Text] Unrest is spreading. The incidents of Friday 19 August in Tabriz, when thousands of Tabriz spectators attacked Revolution Guards in Takhti Stadium and then took to the streets with anti-regime slogans, where they were joined by thousands more city residents and then went on to attack government buildings and clash with Revolution Guards, is not a [word indistinct] or accidental incident. According to eyewitness reports, this incident—which was a reminder of the 18 February 1973 uprising in Tabriz—is a link in the chain of incidents that are occurring one after the other and are gradually spreading from Mashhad to Shiraz, from Arak to (?Zanjan), and from Qazvin to Tabriz.

The motives and reasons behind these incidents of unrest may differ, but they have two things in common: the general cause of all of them is that the people are fed up with problems, from the unlimited political-social suppressions to [words indistinct] and stifling; and all of them were sparked off because of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is the directly responsible for this [word indistinct] situation.

The recent incident in Tabriz is yet another (?manifestation) of the (?flames) that are spreading from Kordestan to [name indistinct], from Baluchestan to Khorasan, from Esfahan to Azerbaijan, and finally, all through Iran right under the eyes of the Islamic regime.

Rafsanjani who [words indistinct], informs the Western press of calm in Kordestan. But if Kordestan, which from the outset of the regime's existence has been [words indistinct] under the most severe suppressions and military observations, is a manifestation of calm then probably nothing happened in Qazvin or Tabriz and Iran continues to live in tranquility.

The ruling regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is [word indistinct] and hostile to all the people's needs and to all the political, social, and individual rights of the people, is bringing the explosion of the volcano closer and will itself burn up in this fire. And this is the (?wretched fate) of any regime that does not meet the basic needs and demands of its people.

The people of Iran, in view of their experience of the February revolution and the heavy price that they have had to pay for living in the Islamic Republic of Iran, should now turn the struggle to overthrow the Islamic Republic regime into an alert, vigorous struggle for separating religion and state; for political liberties; for the people's true and democratic sovereignty; for ending national, [word indistinct], and class suppressions; and for the right to work, housing, education, health, and so on. They should not stop until they gain their basic rights and realize their demands.

[Signed] The Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran; the Organization of the Union of the Iranian People's Feda'iyan; the Organization of the Iranian People's Feda'iyan Guerrilla—Minority; the Organization of Iran's Revolutionary Workers—Rah-e Kargar

[Dated] 22 August 1994

Daily on Countering Latest Moves by Opposition

NC0309082594 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 29 Aug 94 p 2

[Editorial "The Need for Vigilance Regarding the Latest Moves of the Opponents of the Revolution"]

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[Text] The Monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization], in a coordinated move with the opponents of the Iranian Revolution abroad, have closed the offices of the so-called National Resistance Council and have set up centers to recruit Iranian emigres. The person in charge of coordination among these offices is Mariam Qajar. Reza Pahlavi [the shah's son] has also embarked on a visit to some European cities at the behest of White House officials and has had meetings with various promonarchist groups, during which he asked them to cooperate with the new centers set up by the Monafeqin.

The recent move by the Monafeqin and the monarchists and their latest politico-propagandist strategy have been formulated with the coordination of, and arrangements by, some U.S. congressional deputies and the CIA and the latest remarks by Gary Sick confirm this statement.

It appears that the latest action is an indication of the broadening of direct U.S. involvement in bringing together and organizing the opponents of the Islamic Republic of Iran to bestow legitimacy on them and to give them a more extensive presence in international circles.

The previous record of terrorist actions and crimes perpetrated by the Monafeqin in Iran has elicited the public's abhorrence, and the monarchists and opponents of the hallowed system of the Islamic Republic of Iran do not have any base of support inside Iran. However, our society and our officials should appraise this move and should adopt a principled stance, thus exposing these complicated plots by nipping them in the bud.

After consecutive defeats in trying to coalesce the anti-Iranian groups and its failure to undermine the Islamic Republic of Iran, the United States has now resorted to groveling before these self-promoting opponents and has-beens who have no popular base among the Iranian nation. This is also due to the utter abjectness and incorrect perceptions of the Americans regarding the situation in Iran. The actual basis for the latest conclusions drawn by the Monafeqin and the monarchists, which have resulted in illuminating the dark corners in the minds of Washington's leaders, are the events that have occurred in the past few months in the Iranian cities of Qazvin, Qa'emshahr, and so on. There is no doubt that the incorrect, propagandistic approach and analytical errors of some media circles in Iran toward these events have spurred these conclusions.

When we are unable to state the truth at the right place and at the right time—by taking into account the nature of the issues and social disarray in our society and other societies—and we embark on erroneous analogies on the basis of superficial similarities, what can we expect from others who have done the same on the basis of a figment of their imagination?

The Americans have assessed a few solitary incidents in some of our cities, and with their fallacious analysis the Monafeqin believe that social conditions are conducive to extensive moves against our country and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Therefore, with the United States paying the politico-propagandistic expenses of the massive investment in such centers, they can promote these issues. Are their analyses and deductions based on extraneous comparisons, or do they bear any relation to reality?

If our people object to certain incorrect approaches to issues for certain reasons, it is because these are the same people who are pioneers of loyalty to the aspirations of the Revolution and allegiance to the leadership. Even those who from time to time are assailed by discord-generating temptations and indulge in insecure actions manage, when they ponder the effects of such actions, to winnow the wheat from the chaff and to differentiate between the treacherous ones and the ignorant ones.

Our system is a popular and an Islamic one and problems exist in our society as well. Disarray is natural, but in such circumstances one must endeavor to resolve problems in a principled and aware manner. Once we realize that there is a problem, we should apprise our people of it. Then, regardless of whether the consequences are favorable or adverse, pleasant or ugly, we should lay them before the people as is, before others have a chance to present them with distorted versions.

We have repeatedly stated, and we reiterate with sincerity and compassion, that today the state of technology is such that we cannot seal off incidents. If we do not report something, the world's mass media and the enemies of the Revolution are lying in ambush to misrepresent facts and misquote them. We do not mean that reports should be presented in a sensational manner and we do not accept that events should be magnified needlessly either. If the United States presented the events in Los Angeles in this manner and we were also influenced by it, they had specific objectives in whipping up such an atmosphere.

Basically, their system of political reporting is very different from ours. They even capitalize on the scandals in their own society for the benefit of foreign or domestic issues. They have a totally different connotation and concept of people and society. Therefore, comparing our approach with theirs in a thoughtless manner is unnecessary. However, in all circumstances we should have the necessary ability to speak correctly to our people. If there is a problem, we should approach it thoughtfully, and even those who speak out ignorantly or emotionally should not be permitted to provide the enemy with a pretext to make mountains out of molehills.

We should acknowledge the fact that in events such as in Qazvin, we are also at fault, not only others. This is the secret to perpetuating the Islamic system, which is proud of being progressive and popular. It is a system that relies on the people, and when the leader or founder of the Revolution perceived that an official had made a mistake that displeased the people, he apologized publicly

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before millions of viewers. This is because he sincerely believed that the people are our asset and bounty and we are there to serve them.

These are the issues that should be propounded. Our media should discuss them with greater awareness and recognition of facts and without any fear or perturbation. Eliminating the facts and realities of a society from the news media regardless of the pretext or justification in prevailing circumstances is incorrect. Why have the Monafeqin closed down the offices they set up in the name of the so-called National Resistance Council? Why did Reza Pahlavi forsake his life of luxury and pleasure and depart on a visit to European cities so that he could revive the splintered monarchists once again? Why did the Monafeqin, monarchists, Tudeh party members, and their ilk receive orders to unite?

All this is because the United States has not been able to achieve results on the international level and is pursuing other objectives. We should be alert and vigilant and follow events in a calculated manner. We should also strengthen and unify the domestic front, and this is possible only under the aegis of a realistic view and approach.

President Addresses Seminar on Banking

LD0509183994 Tehran IRNA in English 1802 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Tehran, Sept 5, IRNA—President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Monday [5 September] emphasized on the importance of the role of the banking system of the country.

He said in his meeting with the managerial personnel of the banks of the country that after the first five-year national development plan the situation has improved and the conditions were favourable for the banks to offer support for the country's infrastructural projects.

The president appreciated the valuable services of the banking system and said the increase in the people's deposits in the banks is a sign of the correctness of the economic trends in the country.

He stressed on the importance of the people's confidence in the banking system and said the capacity for attracting the potentials for important projects is a lot more than the present amount.

Rafsanjani said if the people are convinced that their investments in the banks are used for building up the infrastructural economy of the country they will certainly have more hope in the banking system.

Earlier in the meeting the governor of the Cental Bank of Iran, Mohammad Hoseyn Adeli, said that during the past five years the rate of investments by the people in the banks had risen from rials [rls] 12,000 billion to now rls 42,000 billion.

He said during the same period rls 70,000 billion worth of banking facilities had been offered to the public and private sector in Iran. The amount of facilities to the production and manufacturing sector, he said, is 6.5 times than it was before, while in the agricultural sector it has increased four times and in the area of construction 3.5 times.

Adeli said thus far 60,000 investment projects have been supplied financially by the banking system of the country and rls 4,600 billion facilities have been offered in the form of interest-free loans.

He added that in the year 1368 (1989-90) the banking system had dlrs 12.9 billion short term debt, dlrs 13.5 billion revenue in the form of foreign currencies and dlrs 14 billion in the form of needs for foreign currencies.

Central Bank Governor Announces New Investment Schemes

LD0509114294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] Our correspondent conducted an interview with Mr. Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli, governor of the Central Bank, and asked his views about new banking facilities announced in today's seminar on Islamic banking:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] In this year's seminar on Islamic banking, we were given some news about the publication of partnership bonds for the people. Could you please tell us something about this?

['Adeli] After studying the matter for several years with the assistance of religious scholars and ulema, as well as university professors and lecturers and our colleagues in the banking system, we were able to take one step forward in the field of interest-free banking and to design bonds, known as partnership bonds. Fortunately, this idea was approved and the general public will be informed about it soon.

These bonds are for participation in particular investment projects. The people can buy these bonds and thereby play a part in huge investment projects. They will definitely benefit from six monthly on account profits and, after the project is completed, whatever profit there is will belong to the people. This was one point.

There was also another new idea which consists of certificates of deposit for long term investment. We are discussing this issue at the moment so we can arrange for these certificates of deposit to be exchanged between the people in the non-banking market, that is, in the stock exchange or outside the stock exchange, thus creating a new market for mobilizing resources. The motive behind this is to bring about a greater mobilization of the resources required for investment and the country's development. [end recording]

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Central Bank Governor Confident of Economic Outlook

LD0509153094 Tehran IRNA in English 1404 GMT 5 Sep 94

[Text] London, Sept. 5, IRNA—Central Bank Governor Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli is confident that Iran will be able to handle its foreign exchange commitments and to keep imports under control.

His optimistic outlook over the next five years also includes that an annual growth rate in GDP of around 5 per cent is both achievable and realistic, providing that rapid and promising increase in non-oil exports continue.

The confidence expressed by 'Adeli in an interview with PETROLEUM ARGUS weekly follows Iran's successful rescheduling of around 70 per cent of its short-term debts. The remaining dlrs 2 to 3 billion are in the process of being agreed.

The transfering of payment arrangements to medium and long-terms and not sizeable amounts according to the central bank governor will not exceed around 10 per cent of foreign exchange revenue of an average year.

Over-expenditure on imports, blamed for the debt problems arising, were now being kept under control, with decreases of 17 per cent last year being followed by similar reductions this year.

'Adeli explained that the adjustment was happening naturally because of the correction made to exchange rates and the willingness of many importers to cut foreign products by buying internally manufactured goods.

Prime examples include the halving of imported steel to 1 million tonnes over the past five years and reducing the purchasing of petrochemicals abroad from at least dlrs 2 bn worth to around dlrs 300m and to be able to export some products.

The central bank governor told the London-based weekly that reforms of the domestic economy were still improving following the success of Iran's first five-year plan, where for the the first time the government had been able to present a zero budget deficit.

Majlis (the parliament) has already shown its determination to continue reforms in the second five-year plan, which has been delayed from starting until March 1995 to provide more time to study it in depth.

'Adeli's personal view was that Iran should be able to achieve around a 5 per cent annual growth in GDP, near to its suggested target of slightly below 6 per cent, proving the growth in non-oil exports continue.

Non-oil exports, he said, had been one of the outstanding achievements of the first five-year plan, rising from dlrs 750 million to around dlrs 4 bn last year and dlrs 5 bn being targetted this year.

Bank Governor Comments on Development Projects

NC0609142694 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 25 Aug 94 p 4

[Commentary by Central Bank Governor Dr. Seyyed Mohammad Hoseyn 'Adeli: "Efforts To Eliminate Deprivation"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] There is no doubt that our system has been involved in attaining the objective of eliminating deprivation and the development of the deprived areas right from the outset. However, it was only after the end of the imposed [Iran-Iraq] war and the beginning of the first [five-year] plan that there was opportunity for making this move in a more serious and organized manner.

In the first five-year plan, three main tasks were placed on the agenda. First, the reconstruction of the war-stricken areas, and moral and material assistance to the victims. Second, expanding the infrastructural and production capacity of the country, and third, the implementation of economic reforms and the rectification of economic relations. In conjunction with these tasks, what was important as well as expensive was the identification of the deprived areas and a campaign for elimination of this deprivation which was never pushed into the background. In fact, it gained greater priority and special attention with the establishment of an office for the deprived areas directly under the supervision of our illustrious president, who is very aware of the sufferings of our dear people. [passage omitted]

In the course of the recent Government Week, it was announced that 1,945 projects are to be inaugurated in various areas. Anyone who has visited these rural areas will realize that the inauguration of each of these projects will infuse a new life into these villages and rural production will assume new dimensions. This would mark an effective step toward the development and self-sufficiency of the country. The direct collective investment from the office of the deprived areas that has been channeled to these impoverished areas exceeds 1,300 billion rials, to which can be added the indirect assistance provided by the various departments.

In view of the above, it appears that a fundamental and basic step has been taken toward obliterating deprivation. What remains is suitable planning, and ensuring conditions conducive to development in these regions in the future.

In this regard, it is necessary that first, the future economic measures in these areas should be organized within the framework of a regional program in a way that enables us to utilize the natural resources and the relative facilities in every district with the minimum expenditure. We should therefore avoid any projects that are scattered too far apart or uneconomical tasks as far as possible. Second, right from the outset, we should carry out sociological and economic feasibility studies on

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populating the sparsely inhabited villages and we should create centers and rural departments that conform to the cultural and economic bias of the region. This is because without keeping in mind the characteristics of the people who have to use them, the infrastructural installations in various areas could be imprudent or could result in astronomical expenditure.

Third, it is essential that steps be taken to mobilize indigenous resources or what is known as the private sector as regards employment-generating and productive investment in these regions.

More important than all such measures that could contribute to greater efficiency than subsidy, would be the creation of more infrastructural facilities. The construction of suitable roads, swift telephone links, water and power facilities, hygiene and education up to an appropriate level would thus absorb most of the residents of these areas who have come into the cities and have the ability to invest. They would thus be motivated to strive for the development of their own deprived areas and even benefit from the resources and facilities of their ancestral homeland.

If it were possible to link the contact routes of these regions to the centers of trade, export markets, and sale outlets, much of the investment in the agricultural sector would be channeled into the industrial and small and rural industries sector with the advantage of local active manpower—which has lesser expectations, is more geared to production than consumption—and this would provide for greater economic and financial returns.

In any case, our main point is that we can all hope for better plans and projects today, merely because the initial move toward eliminating deprivation has progressed with laudable speed and effort on an extensive scale in the rural areas. We should therefore congratulate not only the compassionate leader of the Islamic Revolution and the pioneer of this move, our brave and heroic president, but also our great and hardworking nation.

Government Bonds To Finance Public, Private Projects

LD0609213794 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1505 GMT 6 Sep 94

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] After a long period of expertise effort by religious scholars as well as commercial and banking specialists—and at the time of the Banking Week—the Central Bank has finally announced details for the issue of documents of partnership.

These documents, which are considered new tools in Islamic banking and the governing regulations of which have been approved by the council on cash and credit, will allow popular partnership and investment in profitable projects of private and public nature.

In this manner of investment—regulated with the support of the Qom theological school for the past three and one-half years—people will have full and detailed knowledge of the particularities of the projects in which they are planning to participate before they purchase the investment documents.

The original investment and a minimum annual interest of 20 percent is guaranteed by the bank which is responsible for implementing the project and which must have carried out sufficient studies to ensure the profitability of the project.

The first sample documents to be issued by Iran's Central Bank on 23 September will be for participation in the modernization and construction of the Nabab-Safavi highway in southwest Tehran.

The issue of investment documents will be a great development in the Islamic banking system and will go to prove the dynamism of such system. It will also increase popular participation in economic activities and provide a suitable means of providing finance for great economic projects.

Furthermore, the use of such means will allow the government and the banking system to collect the existing cash and thus prevent inflation—which is itself a consequence of paying great amounts for development and productive projects.

Since economic growth of every country lies in a reduction of consumption, saving and accumulation of capital, the payment of the guaranteed interest to the purchasers of the documents of partnership will also be an encouraging factor for greater saving—a fact that is emphasized by all economic experts and officials in the country.

Pakistan

Sharif Explains Comments on Nuclear Capability

JN0609164594 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 5-11 Sep 94 pp 36,37

[Interview with Nawaz Sharif, former prime minister and leader of the Pakistan Muslim League, in London by Zaki Shihab; date not given]

[Excerpt] [Shihab] Is there any significance in the timing of the announcement you made last week that Pakistan is in possession of nuclear weapons? And why has the Pakistani Government of Benazir Bhutto attempted to downplay the statements you made in this regard?

[Sharif] I am not going to change the statements that I have made regarding my country's possession of nuclear weapons. I was compelled to make these statements for several reasons. For one thing, for the first time, an Indian prime minister made a bellicose and defiant anti-Pakistan statement (on 15 August), the like of which has never been made by any former Indian prime

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minister. It was the first time Narasimha Rao called for holding elections in the disputed territory to lend credence to Indian claims that Kashmir is an indivisible part of Indian territory. In a sense, he sought to declare the annexation of the territory. And because the Pakistani prime minister did not react to the statements made by her Indian counterpart, I found myself compelled to oppose this move on behalf of the Pakistani people. My statements were aimed at forestalling any military aggression that might seek to impose a fait accompli on Pakistan. For another, Benazir Bhutto's government has continued to demonstrate leniency with regard to our country's possession of nuclear capability. Therefore, it was our job, as an opposition, to make her task difficult if she chooses to negotiate on nuclear weapons. Bhutto might have said that Pakistan does not have a nuclear bomb. This could have created difficulties and complications. Now that we have made it clear in no uncertain terms that Pakistan does have a nuclear weapon, Benazir has no option but to seek to make Pakistan a member of the nuclear countries' club. Additionally, an international conference will be held next year to identify the countries that will join this club. As for India and Israel, they will have no problems joining. But as regards Pakistan, it is coming under strong pressures in this regard, because it is a Muslim state. The statements that I have made that Pakistan does have nuclear capability could help us. They could make it easy for us to receive the same treatment that might be accorded to Israel and India.

[Shihab] But, why have many people hastened to deny your statements?

[Sharif] Some former military officials, such as former Chief of Staff Hamid Ghal [name as transliterated], welcomed my statements. He even said that Pakistan has the right to conduct nuclear tests similar to those conducted by India. As for Benazir Bhutto, she does not want the Pakistan Muslim League to make an additional gain, one that might be added to the gains it has thus far made.

[Shihab] Will your statements affect the lukewarm ties your country has with the United States?

[Sharif] The United States was not surprised by our statements. The CIA director said before the Congress last month that Pakistan, Israel, and India possess nuclear bombs.

[Shihab] Under what circumstances will you use the nuclear bomb?

[Sharif] The announcement that I have made regarding our possession of a nuclear bomb was meant to make the Indian rulers think carefully before entertaining the notion of mounting aggression against Pakistan.

[Shihab] What about the future of Benazir Bhutto's government? For how long will she remain in office?

[Sharif] I cannot give you a timeframe. But, I hope that early March will mark the end of her days in power.

[Shihab] On what grounds are you basing your calculations in this regard?

[Sharif] She has failed to keep her promises. She does not have the required support. She has failed to draw up a clear economic or social policy. Similarly, she has failed to draw up a clear foreign policy, and to promote democracy. People are fed up with this system of government. Two weeks from now, we will begin a counter-offensive to remove her from power. It will be hard, if not impossible, for her to stay in power for long. [passage omitted]

Bhutto Interviewed on Regional Issues

BK0509093394 Islamabad THE NATION in English 5 Sep 94 pp 1, 4

[Text] Islamabad—Pakistan is committed to a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute according to the United Nations resolutions pledging the Kashmiris' right to self determination through an impartial plebiscite, said Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in an interview with Al-Fawd [as published] of Cairo.

She said, "The issue of Jammu and Kashmir problems can be resolved to the entire satisfaction of the people of Kashmir, the people of India and Pakistan and the international community if India fulfills its commitments which were made by its leaders to the international community."

The solution of the core issue, Prime Minister said, "lies in the political will and determination of the Indian leadership to accept the mandate of the international community as manifested in the relevant Security Council resolutions on Kashmir and to accept the realities on the ground."

To a question about Pakistan's role in the Central Asia, Bhutto said. "It has been one of reviving historical, cultural, political and commercial linkages with the Central Asian States." The government, she said, has taken a number of concrete measures by opening four missions in Central Asia at the ambassadorial level and one at the Charge d'Affaires level. Pakistan International Airlines is flying weekly flights to Tashkent, Almaty, Ashgabat and Baku.

A number of Central Asian Republics have utilised supplier's credits offered by Pakistan in 1991. It is also participating actively in technical assistance programme organised by Pakistan for the Republics to facilitate their transition from a centralised to a market economy, she added. To another question, Benazir Bhutto said, "The Central Asian States have a secular policy. This does not present any problems for Pakistan. We look forward to meaningful economic relations with Central Asia. As soon as there is peace and harmony in Afghanistan, economic cooperation with the Republics is expected to increase manifold."

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Answering a question about relations between Pakistan and Egypt and the complaints that certain nationals were involved in terrorist activities, Prime Minister Bhutto assured, "Pakistan will not allow its territory to be used against a friendly Muslim country."

She said, the Afghan war in its wake brought a large number of aliens to Pakistan in the early 1980s. Besides the Afghan refugees, a large number of volunteers mostly from Arab countries also came to Peshawar to help the Afghan refugees on humanitarian grounds.

However, after the Afghan war, Bhutto said, "The government of Pakistan made it clear that the Jihad had ended and foreign nationals who had no genuine reason to stay on in Pakistan should leave the country."

"Pakistan later received complaints from some friendly Arab countries that their nationals in Pakistan may be involved in activities directed against their governments. We have conveyed our intention to fully cooperate with these countries and not to allow Pakistan's soil to be used for terrorist purposes."

Bhutto said, "Pakistan is fully aware of the special concern of Egypt and we have been carrying out a careful scrutiny of all the NGOs working in Peshawar with a view to closing those that are not fruitfully and constructively involved in relief operations. At the same time we have asked all citizens of Egypt, Tunisia and Algeria, working for Afghan related NGOs [nongovernmental organizations] to leave Peshawar."

Pakistan, she said, "is happy to note that the Extradition Treaty with Egypt was signed between the two countries in Islamabad on July 14, 1994. We will faithfully apply its provisions, once the treaty comes into force on ratification. It is our sincere hope that the signing of the Treaty will act as a deterrent to those persons who will indulge in criminal activities either in Pakistan or in Egypt and then seek refuge in other country."

To another question, Prime Minister Bhutto said, "The disintegration of former Soviet Union led to emergence of Central Asian Republics with which Pakistan has age-old traditional links. Pakistan has established wide-ranging cooperative linkages with Central Asian Republics both bilaterally and under the auspices of Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO)."

The physical proximity of Pakistan with the Central Asian countries has greatly enhanced Pakistan's geo-political significance, she added.

To another query about establishment of Islamic Common Market, Bhutto said, "The Islamic world has tremendous economic potential. Unfortunately, this potential has yet to be fully harnessed and exploited by the Islamic world."

The ICO [Islamic Conference Organization], she said, has adopted the goal of creating a common market among Muslim countries. This will have to be achieved in stages. The important thing is to begin the process.

Bhutto expressed the hope that the agreement for trade preferences among Islamic countries will soon come into effect. Similarly, other measures like the Export Credit Guarantee Scheme, Multilateral Islamic Clearing Union, Trade Information Network should also be put into operation. Benazir said, "ICO organs in Ankara and Casablanca as well as Islamic Development Bank are preparing in-depth studies on how to overcome the difficulties faced by the Islamic countries and on the possibility of setting up an Islamic Common Market."

She said, "We feel that various ongoing efforts would ultimately lead to the establishment of an Islamic Common Market. This would not only accelerate prosperity in the Muslim countries but would make a positive contribution in enhancing growth in other economic groupings in Europe and America," she added.

Referring to the relations between Egypt and Pakistan, Bhutto said, "historically, relations between Pakistan and Egypt have been close and friendly. We are happy to note that the Egyptians remember, with gratitude, our support for their re-entry into the ICO in 1984."

Egypt, she said, has emerged as an important member country of the ICO and the NAM [Nonaligned Movement]. It also plays a key role in the politics of the Arab world and Africa. We, therefore, give the highest importance to our relations with Egypt.

"We will be consulting Egypt on all the issues confronting the Islamic countries and the third World."

Bhutto said, "We eagerly look forward to an early visit by President Husni Mubarak, to whom an invitation has already been extended by the President of Pakistan. The visit will boost our bilateral relations."

"We also look forward enhancing cooperation in the economic, commercial, industrial and technical fields with Egypt. In this connection, we are making efforts for the early convening of the inaugural session of the Pakistan-Egypt Joint Ministerial Commission. [no end quotation mark as published]

The Prime Minister said the biggest guarantee is our people's commitment to the democracy.

"We have had three elections over the past five years. Our people participated in those polls massively."

She said this manifests their strong belief in the democratic order as the best system suiting their needs and requirements.

Besides, she said, the Pakistan armed forces by refraining from taking any advantage to the political problems during this period to impose a military rule demonstrates that they too are committed to the promotion of a democratic system in the country. "As a matter of fact, our armed forces, during the October 1993 polls,

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not only exhibited a total neutrality but also played an admirable role in conducting free, fair and transparent elections. I therefore, foresee no problem on this account," she said.

'No Immediate Plan' for Recognition of Israel

BK0409143194 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 4 Sep 94

[Text] The National Assembly was informed today that Pakistan has no immediate plan for the recognition of Israel. In reply to a question, the foreign minister, Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali, said we feel that it is not in the general interest of Islamic countries to recognize Israel unless there is substantial progress on implementation of the PLO-Israel accord and on the issue of Jerusalem. The official reply further said the PLO-Israel agreement and the mutual recognition between the two sides does not mean that a final settlement has been reached. We have welcomed these accords as the first step toward a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement. Pakistan believes that there is a need to address all the issues that are of international concern, particularly the status of Jerusalem, Israeli settlements, and full implementation of the Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. A final settlement would conform to international obligations on these issues. As the chairman of Islamic Conference of foreign ministers, Pakistan is consulting with other members of the ICO [Islamic Conference Organization] on this issue.

People's Party Welcomes Raphel Remarks on Kashmir

BK0209162294 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 2 Sep 94

[Text] A spokesman of the Pakistan People's Party has welcomed the statement of Ms. Robin Raphel, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for South Asian affairs, in which she described Kashmir as a disputed territory. Javed Iqbal Rathore, spokesman on the Kashmir issue, said in a statement in Islamabad that the Indian propaganda on Kashmir cannot conceal the realities because the Kashmiri people's unprecedented sacrifices have awakened the world conscience. He said that India has been exposed to the world community because of its atrocities in the occupied valley, and it can no longer deceive anyone.

Defense Minister Rules Out 'Imminent' War With India

BK0509102094 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 5 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] Sukkur—Defence Minister Aftab Shaban Mirani has ruled out the possibility of imminent danger of war with India, and remarked that even if India dared to launch aggression against Pakistan, it would find us fully capable to meet them.

The Minister was addressing a press conference late Saturday [3 September] night at circuit house before leaving for Karachi. Mirani said he wanted to inform countrymen that they should not feel worried, as our forces were quite capable and alert. Moreover our borders were intact, and safe and every kind of vigil was being maintained to avert any kind of danger.

He said Kashmir issue had been the real bone of contention between the two countries since 1947, while the Indian Prime Minister's speech on their Independence Day on 15th August last was a mere repetition what all the former Indian prime ministers had been claiming since 1947. He said Pakistan's firm stance was that Kashmir was a disputed territory, and its future should be decided in accordance with the UN resolution, which called for holding a plebiscite.

Armed Forces Chiefs Authorized To Buy Defense Equipment

BK0609082994 Karachi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 28 Aug 94 pp 1, 7

[Text] It has been learned from reliable sources that the prime minister has authorized the chiefs of the three armed forces to purchase arms and other defense equipment. According to the sources, the procedure for purchasing defense equipment has been changed. Under the old procedure, weapons were purchased through the Defense Ministry and other related institutions, which used to cause undue delay and evoked allegations of commissions and kickbacks. Under the new procedure, the chiefs of the three armed forces will themselves send expert delegations to foreign countries, where they will examine and assess the defense equipment, keeping in view the requirements of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force, and then submit their recommendations to the respective chiefs of the three services. The respective service chief will then inform the defense minister and the prime minister of his decision to purchase such weapons.

According to the sources, a delegation led by Army Chief General Abdul Waheed is leaving on a tour of Sweden and Italy on Thursday. Gen. Waheed will be in Sweden from 28 August to 2 September, during which he will visit the famous "Bofors" gun factory and explore the possibility of acquiring modern guns from Sweden for the Pakistani Army. Gen. Waheed will be visiting Sweden at the invitation of his Swedish counterpart Lieutenant General (A.K. Seikran). He will also meet the supreme commander of the Swedish Army, Gen. (O. Viktoren), and discuss bilateral defense cooperation. The Pakistani chief of army staff will also tour the headquarters of the Bofors company. Sweden is an important manufacturer of defense equipment, and according to the military sources, the army chief-led delegation will also examine the tanks made in Sweden, because Pakistan also wants to acquire modern tanks. The Pakistani military team will also examine various other weapons made in Sweden.

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The Pakistani chief of army staff will visit Italy from 2 to 9 September, during which he will exchange views with his Italian counterpart Gen. (Anselmo Camirana Bonifozer) and visit various military installations and Italian army training centers, especially the Infantry School. Gen. Waheed will return on 10 September.

$50 Million Kickback Reportedly Paid in F-16 Deal

BK0209133794 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 2 Sep 94 p 1

[Text] Karachi, Sept 1—The Government of Pakistan has allegedly been slow in demanding repayment of US dollars 600 million from the American government for the non-supply of the F-16s already ordered.

This was revealed in a 3-page report allegedly supplied to Murtaza Bhutto by anti-corruption department. He circulated the report among the journalists.

He said the aircraft manufacturers were ready to refund the money, but had demanded refund of 50 million dollars which they had already paid to an influential person of the country as kickback. Similarly another 80 million US dollars have been demanded as kickbacks by the same person for the purchase of submarines for Pakistan Navy.

Murtaza said that corruption had gone beyond limits, and over 135 million dollars were misappropriated in commissions and underhand deals.

He said another influential family has been promised a duty free shop at airports in place of an Irish company which has been forced to close down its business.

Mr. Murtaza Bhutto also revealed at a press conference here Thursday that a plan had been hatched to kill him during a visit to Hyderabad last week.

The Senior Superintendent of Police, Hyderabad Sardar Abdul Maud Dasti had presided a secret meeting of a few policemen in Hyderabad on August 23 in which he deputed two or three of his close confident to shoot him in the head and chest.

It was to be carried out in the historic Hala Town where he was expected with Senator Makhdoom Khaliquzzaman after a visit to Nawabshah. He survived because he gave up plans to visit Hala, where Makhdoom had reached already, while he himself had proceeded to Larkana.

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